



Pastor Hanke's Blog

February 24, 2019

Prepare for Persecution

Bible Reference: Luke 6:27-38

Lately my boys have been asking about money. They said, "Dad, if it started raining money wouldn't everyone be happy?" I explained how money can cause more problems than we think, and how Jesus teaches us that the love of money leads to all sorts of troubles.

There is something inside of us that looks around at others and thinks if I only had what they have, life would be better. We want our lives to be good. This seems like a reasonable request. As a Christian, when you first hear that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6), you might think you'll have it easy. It only makes sense that with Jesus on our side we would not face persecution, right? Wrong. In our reading for today, Jesus is teaching His disciples to prepare for persecution. How in the world could this be a good thing?

Time and time again I was warned about going into the ministry. My mom let me know how tough it would be. My grandpa, who was a pastor, shared how hard it would be. My experiences with schoolwork let me know how tough it would be. Whether it was from people telling me or my own personal experience, I was repeatedly warned to prepare for persecution as a pastor. Yet in every moment of persecution, I have also experienced peace from Jesus.

Persecution is a reality not only for pastors, but also for every Christian. I am not sure we talk about that enough in our church body. I believe each one of us should prepare for persecution, and actually look for it. When we are looking for it, we are less likely to be shocked by it. When we see God working in our lives, we can anticipate that the devil will be actively looking to destroy it.

This week we listen to Jesus clarify what it means to be a Christian. He was talking to those who believed and helping them understand that they would experience persecution because of Him. Jesus then proceeded to give them instructions on how to prepare for that persecution, though not the type of instructions we might expect. This Sunday we will take time to break down Jesus' instructions and dive into preparing for persecution.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will