



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*March 18, 2018*

### Learning What To Ask For

A few days ago when my kids & I were driving home, they asked me about my days in college. This can be a dangerous topic. One of the funniest questions they asked was if I had any girl roommates (which I didn't, nor could I at Concordia River Forest). We spent the most time talking about what I ate. The college cafeteria seemed like heaven to them. Gavin, who loves pancakes, asked if I could get pancakes every day. Jacob, knowing I have a smoothie every morning, asked if they had smoothies (he has no clue about my pre-Dr. Nick days). I could see their eyes get big as they thought about all the food options that were available. Their closest experience with anything like this is the school hot lunch program. The kids try to tell me they *need* hot lunch every day, but of course, they don't understand the cost involved when raising a large family. We often have to weigh needs vs. desires. It is always funny to me to see what my kids think they *need*.

Leading up to our reading this week, the disciples have seen miracles, have heard Jesus speak about changing family dynamics, and heard Him explain what it will take for Him to redeem the world. After all this, two of the disciples say to Jesus, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." Now, this would be the perfect place for us to enter and say, "Oh, you silly teenage disciples. You think you know what is best for you, but you don't." But before we get all self-righteous and call out the disciples for asking for something they don't really need just desire, let's look at the bigger picture. For example, Gavin is not trying to pick something bad for him to eat for breakfast; the dude just loves pancakes. For this season in his life, loving pancakes is a good thing because it speaks "My dad loves me. He is home with me now and cooking me breakfast." (Just a side note, with all the pancakes I've discovered that college shot glasses make perfect syrup vessels!) For the disciples, their miracle-rocked brains were seeing just how great the love of Jesus is, and that there were no limitations on what He could do. Considering that, it seems to me like they just began to ask things of Jesus before stopping to think about what they were saying.

We all have phases of our lives where we look back and think why did I ask for that? It is a reoccurring theme in the Bible—people asking for things they think they want, but don't really want or need. This weekend we'll talk about what we currently ask for, and how the Holy Spirit can shape our minds to know what we should be asking for. We'll learn from those who physically walked alongside Jesus—His disciples—how we might better walk alongside Him this Lenten season.

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*