



Pastor Hanke's Blog

April 22, 2018

Hired Hand

Bible Reference: John 10:11-18

I tried a lot of places before I finally landed my first job—Blimpie's sandwich shop. I had an old neighbor who owned it and he hired me. The restaurant was pretty dead during the week, not much business, so the manager, Kate, would just hang out with us and talk. I have so many memories of the conversations we had. We loved it when she was working. On days when the owner, Steve, would be with us, we had a few more jobs to do. But generally, he was so busy cooking the books (wink) that he left us alone. When his wife, Kathy, would come in, it was a different story. We had to clean table legs! I have owned a lot of tables in my life, and I'm pretty sure that this was one of the only times I've ever worried about cleaning the legs. I absolutely hated working with Kathy. Trust me, I was still a great employee; I was on time and made a sandwich like nobody's business. I worked my tail off cleaning up at the end of the day, and hardly ever argued about anything I had to do. But I had no desire to clean table legs! They were not my tables, and it wasn't my fault the store wasn't getting any business.

Our verse for today, John 10:11-18, hit me as I prepared for this weekend. What if you were able to help people understand that they are working or living as a bunch of hired hands? Actually, everyone in the world would fall into this category. At first you may not think this is true, but even as a father, I recognize that the children God has blessed me with are not truly my own. I have been given them to take care of for a time. But at the end of the day, God created them, Jesus redeemed them, and the Holy Spirit will be guiding them through their lives long after I am gone. I am but a hired hand.

Our reading from John 10 can be challenging at first, acknowledging that we can't help the people we truly love because we are like hired hands. Yet the reading is powerful when we acknowledge that our Creator did not leave us, and will never leave us, because of the resurrection. Jesus is not a hired hand paid to do a job, *but an owner who was willing to pay to redeem us*. This powerful message is what our world needs to hear!

God's Peace,

Pastor Will