



Pastor Hanke's Blog

June 23, 2019

Dealing with Demons

Bible Reference: Luke 8:26-39

I remember when the news of Robin Williams' passing broke. I was shocked. He was a childhood comfort for me. I have so many memories of watching Mork and Mindy with my mom. I laughed as he played the role of Mrs. Doubtfire and spoke to the pains of divorce in our world. In Aladdin, his masterful Genie performance helped me appreciate the most unique friends, and in Good Will Hunting he helped me to see the power in counseling and the joy of walking alongside someone who is facing demons.

We don't like hearing the stories of what Robin Williams went through, but we can at least understand that kind of demon—the demons of addiction, depression, and habitual sin. We are saddened to find out about them, but often not surprised because we know someone else who has faced them, or is facing them. We are left feeling helpless, and wishing we could have helped before the demon took over.

But when it comes to the demon that we cannot understand creating havoc in someone, like in our reading for today, we often avoid the topic. We might reason that we can't or shouldn't talk about things we don't understand, especially a crazy world we can't see. Perhaps there's some truth in that, but there is also a danger in avoiding the topic altogether. I often speak that we should not try to gain knowledge that the Lord has not given us, as this is what got Adam and Eve in trouble in the first place. But Jesus did speak on the topic of demonic possession, and so have other authors over the years, like C.S. Lewis.

So this weekend we take time to talk about dealing with demons. We'll break down the words of Jesus on the topic and ask how it applies to our lives today. As we look forward to VBS this week, we know that many kids entering this place will be battling demons in their own homes. As a church, we will pray for the demons to leave our midst and those of the kids, and that Jesus would do the same work we read about in the Gospel to the families and people who enter Mt. Calvary.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will