



Pastor Hanke's Blog

June 3, 2018

Is Vacation the Answer for Rest?

Bible Reference: Mark 2:23 – 3:6

Mindy's parents have been blessed with an amazing lake house. The house is on beautiful Table Rock Lake and has some wonderful amenities. It has become the perfect vacation spot for a pastor and teacher who have a lot of kids. Before this, vacation was visiting family, but now we have a new tradition—Memorial Day weekend at the lake house.

Sounds beautiful and relaxing, doesn't it? And it is, right up until bedtime, when it becomes anything but restful. When you have little kids, bedtime can become the most dreaded part of vacation. At home we have a strict bedtime, and our kids have systems and routines that make it a smooth process, for the most part. But away from home, in an unfamiliar place and out of routine, I find myself battling with my two-year-old, and sometimes with the others as well. In these moments, my mind questions whether this is all worth it, or do I need a vacation from my vacation. Is a vacation the answer for rest?

Don't get me wrong; I still love the lake house. One of the things I love the most is the separation from my fast paced world. It takes 20 minutes to get to a store, and over 10 minutes just to get to a gas station. At first I had to get used to this, and even prepare for it, since (as many of you know by now) I love ice and good water. It took planning to make sure I was stocked up, because being out was unacceptable. Yet, when reality sets in and I'm away from the house and thinking of the next thing that needs to be done, and far enough away from work, I find I have to slow down and then my mind actually takes a break. Ahh.... I take time to look at God's creation—the water, the trees, and the sunsets. My kids have my full attention, and Mindy and I get a break from the go go go of life. Once again... Ahh...

In our text this weekend, Jesus says one of those lines that could make you think for days. He says, "The Sabbath (day of rest) was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." At the time He said this, the church officials were challenging Him on what He should do on the day designated for rest. They were judging Jesus' vacation. Jesus reminds them that He (God) created the Sabbath. It sounds so crazy to think that these guys were telling Jesus what He should do on His vacation, which He created to begin with. Ok, so the Sabbath and vacation aren't quite equal, but God did intend for us to have rest. So now, in this vacation season, we ask, "Is vacation the place for rest?" When else did God intend for us to rest? Let's talk about it on Sunday.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will