



Pastor Hanke's Blog

July 28, 2019

What Did He Say?

Bible Reference: Luke 11:1-13

I am pretty systematic and I can get set in a certain way of doing things. I am learning how to be more “hands off” as my kids start doing chores. Jacob’s job is to rinse the dishes and put them in the dishwasher. Many nights he rushes through them. I want to step in and show him a better way, but I realize that it is a lesson time and practice will teach him. For example, when the dishes pile up he’ll ask, “Dad, why are there so many tonight?” My response is, “Well, son, you didn’t wash them off as well last night before they went into the dishwasher so they didn’t get clean. Now you have some to redo.” Gavin’s job is to sweep the floor. He has observed how certain foods make for messier floors and more work. He’ll say, “Dad, I love Chinese or taco night when we are eating, but I don’t like the floors.” And when they pick up their rooms, they will cram their clothes into the drawers and try to slam them shut. Just wait until they start folding clothes; another opportunity for a lesson they learn for themselves.

We are all children of God. Like children, sometimes we listen to the instructions Jesus gave us but want to do it our own way. At the same time, we can often be critical of the way other Christians carry out Jesus’ instructions. So, is there only one way to carry out the Words of Jesus? While there are certain things that can only be one way, like the path to salvation, there are many other things that have multiple ways of going about them.

In this week’s reading Jesus is teaching His disciples to pray. This is one of those areas where we commonly criticize one another. Oddly, the Lord’s Prayer is a highly debated subject. Why do Catholics call it the “Our Father”? Why do Lutherans add a separate ending? Why do the non-denominational churches avoid saying it altogether? Is it a model of prayer, or are we actually supposed to say the exact words Jesus said? Is there any truth or legitimacy behind this debate? This weekend we will dive into the many ways to interrupt this Scripture. Join us!

God's Peace,

Pastor Will