



Pastor Hanke's Blog

July 7, 2019

Dependent on the Care of Others

Bible Reference: Luke 10:1-20

When I was first learning how to be a pastor I had a really hard time making visits to the homebound or those in residential facilities. To me, visiting them was invading their space. If they came to church we were on common ground and we had both made the choice to be there, but that's not the case if I went to them, especially uninvited. Visiting the sick was different; I knew they needed help and would be willing to receive it. During my fieldwork when I was doing my rotation at a residential facility, they taught us to knock on the room door, enter and start visiting with whomever was there. Everything about that seemed wrong. I was someone they did not know entering a space that no one asked me to enter. I wish I had a great story about a person who received me into their room and how we built an amazing relationship, but that didn't happen. Instead, I learned to be ok with being uncomfortable.

Our culture teaches us that independence is very important. There is value in making sure our kids and others can live on their own. But the truth is, God built us to be in community with one another. When we pretend we can handle everything on our own we miss the connections Jesus wanted us to have with others.

Making connections with people can happen naturally, or be very practical, when we acknowledge our weaknesses. Meaning, we look for people who can help us in areas where we need it. For example, my brother-in-law is an insurance agent and he gets all my business, not because he is always the best deal, but because he is my go to guy who knows insurance. I can call him or text him randomly when I need help with an insurance problem. My brother and father-in-law are attorneys, so I call on them for legal advice. Mindy's sister is a nurse and we call on her for medical advice. My home repairs and car repairs fall into this category too, but with non-family members. They are people I have found in the community that help me in areas that I don't know enough about. My human side wants to worry that I am burdening these people, but Scripture reminds me that Jesus put them in my life. I believe it is important to be thankful for them, and to be intentional in letting them know that I am thankful for them. I enjoy looking for those moments when I can share with them how much they have blessed me.

Our reading this week talks about Jesus sending laborers into the fields. He is very clear that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. On the surface, this problem seems easy enough to fix...just figure out a way to excite more people to become laborers. But then Jesus goes on to encourage the laborers to take nothing with them and to be dependent on others. Then, on top of

that, He tells them they are sheep and that there are wolves out there trying to devour them. Who is going to want to be a laborer now? This passage of Scripture, filled with its scary directives, is referred to often but is it carried out? Do we, as laborers, get scared off and give up early? I believe the church often gives up before they see the reward of the harvest, and the harvest is so rewarding. Last week we spent time talking about being hospitable to others, and this week we'll talk about what it means to be dependent on the hospitality of others.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will