



Pastor Hanke's Blog

July 8, 2018

Take Nothing

Bible Reference: Mark 6:1-13

In a few short weeks we will return to the lake to hang with all of Mindy's family. I have claimed a few drawers at the lake house just to keep some of our family's stuff. As I work to get rid of clothes we no longer wear at our house in Mid-County, if they are lake worthy, I take them to the lake to leave there. The goal is to take as little as possible with us each time we go to the lake, but it is a struggle. I am always worried about not having something, so we do double and triple checks to make sure we have everything we need for the kids. The thought of taking nothing seems almost impossible.

Thinking about these vacation preparations is what made this week's reading stand out. Jesus is sending out the disciples to heal the sick and to share the good news, but He tells them to take nothing. He actually gets specific and tells them not to take bread, money or even a second tunic! Why would He tell them to take nothing? I can't imagine going out in this day and age taking nothing. It would be hard to leave my phone behind, let alone extra clothes, food and money. What was Jesus teaching them? Many speak about the urgency of getting the Gospel out, maybe like the urgency they had to leave Egypt during the time of Moses. Perhaps Jesus wanted them to have complete dependency in God's provision, having others take care of their needs. But, when does one cross the line of taking too much from others?

In our Gospel lesson Jesus sends His disciples out with power and authority. He gave sinful humans the authority to share the message of hope. That power and authority still exists today for you and me; we get the opportunity to share that saving message as well! As we look into the other commands of Jesus, like take nothing, what else can we learn about being sent? We'll dig into that on Sunday.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will