



Pastor Hanke's Blog
August 12, 2018

Falling in Love with the Community: OFTEN OVERLOOKED

Bible Reference: Mark 1:40-45

A few weeks ago I was watching one of the Internet personalities I follow. He was doing his daily video with a handful of A-list celebrities (celebrities at the top of their game with the most desired social status). Someone passing by on the street lost it when they recognized the Internet sensation, but was completely unphased by the movie stars standing with him. A T.V. station covering the story pointed out how the girl had no clue who the movie stars were and how she completely overlooked them to see the Internet star. They were shocked and humored at the irony of the movie stars being overlooked; people who are used to fame and recognition wherever they go. It's as if they got a taste of what many of us have felt at one time or another—overlooked.

Jesus recognizes the reality that people often feel overlooked in this world. When Jesus was here on earth, He was the best at *not* overlooking the often overlooked, but rather loving each part of His creation. The often overlooked still exist in our lives, and also in our communities. It is hard not to get caught up in the hype of the world and follow celebrities and Internet stars. It is hard to intentionally look for the often overlooked and care for them.

This weekend is a really big weekend for us, both with the clean up day and the congregational meeting. We will be dealing with a part of our property that has often been overlooked (playground and field). We are dealing with a neighboring church that could easily be overlooked (Concordia Maplewood). We are asking why the Lord has brought these things to our attention? Are they opportunities we should not overlook? How does our vision of transforming our community fit into these potential endeavors?

We will spend time on Sunday looking at Jesus' example of how not to overlook the often overlooked. Jesus took time to stop, listen and love someone others overlooked. What lesson is He teaching us, especially considering the often overlooked areas of our community, a community He has called us to love?

God's Peace,
Pastor Will