



Pastor Hanke's Blog

October 28, 2018

Reformation – Who Can I Trust?

Bible Reference: Matthew 11:2-19

The election is right around the corner, and as Jacob so brilliantly put it, “Dad, who are you supposed to vote for? This commercial says this, and that one says that?” I responded, “Great question, Jacob!” Maybe because my internal drive is relational, I just want to get to the heart of people. I know that is not how politics works, but it would be nice if it did. As a boy, I looked up to Michael Jordan. Now as an adult, his character has spoken to me time and time again just how wrong my boyhood assessment of him was. I was hung up on my initial impressions and those things about him that caught my eye. But as I’ve grown, I’ve learned to double check those impressions and try to look at people, or things, more objectively.

I’m trying to do the same thing with the candidates in the election—distinguishing what about them are just my impressions, and what about them I am seeing objectively. I will do my best to use the resources and tools around me to make an educated decision. Thankfully, I have family members who follow the news more than I do, and are able to keep me updated and answer my questions. If you take your voting privileges seriously, it is a lot of work to choose a candidate. Long gone are the days when the decision was easy, though I am not sure it ever really was. Perhaps that was just another misguided impression.

I think it is interesting that people in Jesus’ day looked at Him like we look at politicians. They were challenging His motives and questioning every action. In the end, Jesus proved to bring the only solution to our earthly problems, and yet, because of their doubt, many missed it.

I wish I could say that our churches had a better track record than our politicians. But honestly, our churches get caught up in self-serving interests just like the politicians do. During the reformation, Martin Luther challenged the motives of the church and found corruption. All these years later, we are still reminded that corruption in our church can sneak up at any moment.

This week we will get an up-close look at those who questioned Jesus and His motives. We celebrate the purity of our Lord and Savior, and how He humbled Himself to rescue and redeem us. We pray that Mt. Calvary, and our Synod, would continue to uphold the truth of God’s Word, and that we would follow in the footsteps of the reformation with a passion for the Gospel. We pray for help leading people to the only man/God they can trust—Jesus!

God's Peace,

Pastor Will