

Sermon for Confirmation Sunday (Sunday)

Date: May 19, 2019

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, Austin, MN

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:4-15

Second Reading: Acts 2:37-41

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:15-17

Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-15

Sermon Title: Don't Be a Yellow-Belt



Introit: Psalm 34:8-10; Antiphon Psalm 34:11

Hymns:

LSB 861 – Christ Be My Leader

LSB 725 – Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB 605 – Father Welcomes

Distribution:

LSB 617 – O Lord, We Praise Thee

LSB 629 – What Is This Bread

Liturgy:

Divine Service I, p. 151



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KAUS 1480 AM Sun. 9:00am



Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-15

Listen, Israel: The Lord is our God. The Lord is the only God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words that I give you today. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home or away, when you lie down or get up. Write them down, and tie them around your wrist, and wear them as headbands as a reminder. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

The Lord your God will bring you into the land and give it to you, as he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This land will have large, prosperous cities that you didn't build. Your houses will be filled with all kinds of things that you did not put there. You will have cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant. After you have eaten all that you want, be careful that you don't forget the Lord, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt. You must fear the Lord your God, serve him, and take your oaths only in his name. Never worship any of the gods worshiped by the people around you. If you do the Lord your God will become very angry with you and will wipe you off the face of the earth, because the Lord your God, who is with you, is a God who does not tolerate rivals.

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Grace to you, and peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today is a very special and important day. It is that day when I present children before this congregation, and I ask this congregation to begin seeing them no longer as little children but young adults. These children have completed the two years of my confirmation class.

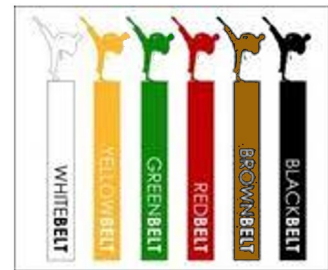
Through all of that it has been my focus and goal to show them that God's Word is not just for when your sitting in church. It is for every aspect of life. In class we talk about real world things. We talk about troubles in school, troubles with friends, troubles in families and how we respectfully deal with the sin. The sin we see in our friends. The sin we see in those who have authority over us, and the sin we see in ourselves.

In just a few moments we will have Confirmation Questioning. I do that for three reasons:

- 1) To show this congregation that I have taught them a basic understanding of the Holy Christian Faith.
- 2) To show me that they have studied the materials, done the homework, and learned those things that I require them to know, if I am going to confirm them in the Holy Christian Faith.
- 3) To show you that you have learned all of those things you need to know.

It's a proud time for this congregation. We're happy for you, and we all want to celebrate this time. This day is the day when you begin to be considered young adult among us. A good Christian man or woman in whom this congregation can begin to depend and rely.

Here's the problem. We don't want "Yellow Belt" Christians. I had a friend who was studying a certain type of martial arts. In that school you would start out with a white belt. Then you get yellow, green, red, brown, and finally black. The beginner white belt is to show you, and everyone else, that you don't know anything. With your white belt you can practice with anyone except a yellow belt.



The time will come when you get your yellow belt. Once you get your yellow belt you are forbidden to practice with anyone except a black belt. Then when you get you green belt you can practice with anyone except a yellow belt. You must obtain your black belt before you're allowed to practice with a yellow belt again.

Why is the yellow belt different from everyone else? Because they don't know how much they don't know. They know enough to be harmful to others and to themselves, but they don't know how much more there is still yet to learn. So only a black belt, with the skills to protect themselves from the student, and the student from themselves, is allowed to practice with them.

Getting your green belt is not as much a skill test as it is a knowledge test. When you realize how much more there is to learn, and how much you don't yet know, then you have graduated from yellow to green.

The point of all the stuff that we teach in Confirmation is to show you how much you don't yet know. If you think you know all there is to know about being a Christian you're still a yellow belt. Don't be a "Yellow-Belt" Christian. There is always more to learn.

So here is my prayer and my encouragement. Don't be a "Yellow Belt" Christian. Don't think you've done it all.

May God make you so wise.

Amen.