



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

May 2021

OLD DOGS, NEW TRICKS

From the Pastor's Desk

Are You an Old Dog?

Genesis 45:7-8

When I worked in construction I had multiple opportunities to operate various instruments of destruction. I remember a particular devastating one in which with glancing blows it could cause walls to crumble, floors to shatter, and bricks to disintegrate. It was not an instrument for the faint of heart, because it had to be wrangled in like that of a bucking bronco.

When operating that wicked tool one could easily find that its power could turn on you and without warning it could take you for a fantastically terrible ride. Without the proper ear protection the roar of that monster could pierce the ears of the unsuspecting. Its volume was so ferocious and distinct that anyone within 50 yards knew exactly what that beast was.

The tail of that beast was so long and powerful that with one sway it could take down even the biggest of warriors and its teeth were so sharp that it was able to take large bites of choice morsels and spit out its remains with the greatest of ease.

What tool could I have been operating that demanded such respect and allusion? Well I can tell you that it was not just any tool in the woodshed, basement, or toolbox. No, the tool I am referring to is bigger and badder than that of your circular saw, more vicious than your chain saw, and makes your power drill look like a little girly's hobby-toy. The destructive tool that I used at work was none other than the "Mighty Jackhammer!"

Mind you the jack hammer I used often in construction was no small little chipping gun; I got to use a sixty-five pounder. So let us pause to give a hearty Tim "The Toolman" Taylor grunt.

Have you ever worked a tool that you were forced to repeatedly pick it up and down? This tool had to be repositioned often and lifted often in order to continue to use it. Now think about picking this sixty-five pound tool up and down a few hundred times in the course of a couple of hours. That was my lot in life several times in my days of demolition.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

May 2, 10:45 a.m. – First Sunday: Commemorating the Lord's Supper

May 6 – National Day of Prayer

Pray to overcome the forces of evil dividing our country.

May 31 – Memorial Day

In memory of all men and women who have died in military service for the United States.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Discussion

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

Continuing to discuss verse 3:16 in each book of the Bible.

I remember on one particular job that I had to work from Noon to 7:30 p.m. for the sake of noise, because we were working right next to the surgical ward at the VA Hospital in Manchester. Around 3:00 o'clock we were able to begin our daunting task of chipping away at the slab on the floor that lay before us.

I remember breaking up a good sweat trying to cause my pieces to break into large sections like the ones I did the week before, but to no avail. I kept getting really small pieces and it was pretty frustrating.

As I moved left to right I kept my attention on my partner from the corner of my eye. He was moving quite easily and the pieces he was producing were large and the area of work he attacked and conquered was far greater in size than the one I was working on.

At first I thought it was just the material I was working on. The area that I was told to demolish had some weather damage were more crumbly than that of other areas that did not receive such damage. Normally I could break extremely large areas and the process would move along quite easily.

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On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

Well on that particular night that was not the case for me, but it was for my partner. With mounting frustration and a diminishing energy level, the night became a night in which I wanted to be somewhere else.

After a couple of hours I looked down and discovered that the tool I was working with was defective. Now I know that it sounds like I am just trying to save face and preserve my pride, but unlike the proverbial fish story it is true, my tool was defective. Really it was.

At some point earlier in the evening the bit at the end of the shaft that is driven into the concrete slab had broken clean off and I was hammering with a blunt object. Talk about increased frustration. Even after I took time (a half an hour), to sharpen the bit, it never did work the way it did when we received it from the rental facility. Well needless to say, which means I will say something anyway, I was glad to go home that night.

On the next day I was talking to my partner and we discussed the previous night and how it went for me. I mentioned that it was a very negative experience and I was glad it was over. He then piped up and told me that there are no negative or positive experiences, but just experiences we have to face in life.

At that moment I disagreed with him and told him that all experiences are either negative or positive, bad or good, but what matters most is what we learn from them. Then I added that often we learn more from the negative experiences because they leave a longer lasting impression on us. At that he agreed with me.

As I reflect back on that work experience in my life, I found myself pondering upon the things we can learn from. Often the Lord brings challenges into our lives to strengthen us and they are not always pleasant. Often we would consider them a negative experience and would rather not have lived through them, but from what the Bible teaches us is that God is always trying to teach us something through the trials of our lives.

As I think of a perfect example in the Bible that truly illustrates this principle, I think of Joseph and the life that he lived. His story is found in the book of Genesis chapters 37-50. His life was fraught with negative upon negative experiences in which he learned to trust in God even more.

Joseph's story started with his brothers hating him to the point of wanting to kill him, but instead they sold him into slavery. Then after he was sold to his master, he was repeatedly approached by his master's wife to perform adultery. After refusing her advances and running away from her, Joseph was falsely accused of attacking her and then thrown into jail.

During that time in jail, he served the jailor and what we see in Joseph is that, in all the negative experiences, he did not yell at God, nor denounce his belief in Him. Instead we see that Joseph was steadfast in his faith, and after all those negative experiences, he was afforded the opportunity to

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Property and Space Patrol

Mowing is to start soon. Grass is growing everywhere. Fallen limbs and branches need to be picked up and the field behind the church needs to be raked out. The AC units will need to be installed soon.

✠ Pastor Al

Experience God's Love Anew

This article appeared in the Spring 2021 newsletter from Our Daily Bread Ministries.

God's love is the ultimate source of encouragement. The more we discover and experience just how much He loves us, the more hope we will have for the future. God has designed a plan and purpose for your life – and it brings Him joy to see it flourish.

Enjoy these four reminders from Scripture about the character and depth of God's love for you.

God's Love Is Everlasting

"The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying, 'Yes I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.' " (Jeremiah 31:3)

God's Love Brings Peace

"The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

God's Love Stands

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Romans 8:35)

God's Love Gives Us Hope

"But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' " (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Remembering Our Veterans

In Allentown, three events are being held to honor veterans and POW/MIAs. For details of each event, go to <https://allentown-alt.org/news-analysis/20210427-veterans-events.htm>

May 3, Presentation of a Missing Man Chair, Town Hall

May 15, Flags for Forgotten Heroes, Allentown Police Station

May 22, POW/MIA Flag Raising Event, various locations

Origin of a Favorite Hymn

The following story was sent in by Pastor Al.

Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989 is cited as the author of the hymn "How Great Thou Art" (See #10 in the Baptist Hymnal)

Stuart Hine was born in England and was dedicated to Jesus Christ by his parents in the Salvation Army. He was led to a saving knowledge of Jesus in 1914 and he became a Methodist evangelist.

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Pastor's Desk, from p. 2

stand before Pharaoh to interpret a dream and then gave God the credit for such an interpretation.

After doing so Joseph was made the second highest in authority in all the land. Here was what we learn from Joseph: if he had remained bitter through all the negatives and if he had not learned to trust in God through all the hardships, his heart and mind would not have been prepared to serve the Lord as he did.

It is near the end of Joseph's story that we learn the strength of his resolve in taking a negative and learning from it. It is found in chapter 45:7-8 in which Joseph says "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God."

What is even more remarkable about his maturity and faith is that Joseph said this to the very men who betrayed him and sold him into slavery. He spoke these tender-hearted words to his brothers and he gave God the glory for sending him ahead of them to save his entire family from starvation and death.

Have you ever heard the phrase "You can't teach an old dog new tricks?" It's a pretty popular idiom in our present culture. What it means is that when one gets to a certain age that person is unable to change his or her ways even in spite of a positive or negative situation. The person becomes inflexible to changes in life and refuses to be moved in a direction of divine shifting fluidity.

Well, we as Christians are not to be this way. God is constantly bringing positive and negative experiences into our lives to help shape and mold us in accordance to His will. When He does this, He wants us to adjust our thinking and mentality accordingly.

There are many "Old Dogs" in our churches today. I don't care if you are 20 or 70, you can still be an "Old Dog" in your thinking for this is something that is ingrained in all of us no matter the age.

We must break from our molded thinking patterns and learn the "New Tricks" that the Lord wants us to learn. For each experience in life we can see God testing us and drawing us closer to Him in reliance and dependence on His divine sovereign hand. The experiences that you face are not by accident, nor are they randomness in a chaotic environment. They are purposeful and intentional experiences to force you, an "Old Dog," to learn "New Tricks."

What recent events in your life have been positive or negative? How did you handle them? Were they experiences that drew you closer to the Lord, or has your faith been quaked a little? Did you even consider that God was doing something to gain your attention to His workings?

Know this, He is active in your life and has a purpose for each and every encounter you experience daily. Be a faithful student of the great trainer of souls and learn some new tricks, you "old dog."

✠ Pastor Jim

Favorite Hymn, from p. 2

In 1931, Hine first heard this song in the Ukraine. He added the 3rd verse and wrote it in Russian. He was on an evangelist tour and passing a house he heard the people repenting and praising the Lord (in Russian). He was moved as he heard the Holy Spirit at work. He did not enter or disrupt but he was inspired to write the 3rd verse as we know it today:

"And when I think, that God His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin."

Note that in our hymn book, the hymn is still copyrighted. Also note that he did not author any other hymns.

Stuart and his wife Mercy were forced to flee eastern Europe in 1933 and finally fled to England as World War II broke out. He continued as an evangelist in England among Polish refugees.

Kids' Answers About the Bible

This was sent from Cynthia Ward, but its origin is unknown. The statements are pretty funny nevertheless.

Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. These are their responses and they have not been retouched or corrected. Pay special attention to the wording and spelling:

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
5. Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
11. Moses died before he ever reached Canada, then Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.
12. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

- 13. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
- 14. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- 15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
- 16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager.
- 17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- 18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
- 19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
- 20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
- 21. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
- 22. The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- 23. One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taxi man.
- 24. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity, and he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- 25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony!

membership. It is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hillside on the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is May 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

- 5/21 Beverly Guzior
- 5/22 Rachel Page
- 5/26 Michael Frascinella



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that is you, please let the Editor know about it so we can celebrate it with you.

Tune in to Gospel Radio

In the Concord area, get more of God's Word by tuning into New Hampshire Gospel Radio at 99.1 FM or 104.3 FM. For example, on Saturday nights at 6 p.m. the locally produced "Saturday Night Gospel Hour" offers a wide variety of southern and country gospel music. During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly.

Learn more at <http://www.nhgr.org/>.

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the

Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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