



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 22 No. 2

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

February 2023

Lump of Coal Now; a Diamond Someday

From the Pastor's Desk

God Don't Make Junk

John 2:1-12

I remember when I was just a wee lad and I bought what I thought was a great toy. It was one of those wooden flyers that when assembled it would go like a hundred yards or something like that. I gathered my money that I had worked hard to achieve and went down to Zyla's store behind the old Mammoth Mills building in Manchester.

When I got there I rushed over to the section that had the flyers and without even taking the time to think it over I brought it to the counter and shelled out three dollars for it. When I got home I tore open the package and began to assemble the already pre-punched shapes that it was in (which now looking back was proof that it was a cheesy toy) and when it was ready I took it out to the front porch and shot it high into the sky anticipating the glory that awaited the flight.

The funny thing is when I had given the flyer its inaugural launch it didn't go that hundred yards I had imagined in my mind that it would. Instead it immediately did a nose dive right into the ground eight feet down from where I let it go.

When I climbed over the railing, which I wasn't supposed to do, I jumped down near the toy and found that after one attempted flight a piece had broken off. My expensive toy, at least expensive to me, was broken and it didn't even glide two feet. What a piece of junk!

Now that I am older there is one thing I have learned over the years, we are surrounded by junk. How often have you bought a toaster, can opener,

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day

Feb. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day

Weekly:

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

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

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

On hold; possible start date in early March

television, computer, or even a car and found it to be nothing more than a piece of junk.

Too often manufacturer's package things that try to feed our need for some internal gratification and ultimately we give in to the purchase only to find out that it was a piece of junk and probably assembled by a bunch of fifth graders on summer vacation. It's not surprising that we get let down by the things we buy.

The reason for this is that we often set ourselves up to be let down by insignificant things we place too much value in and what happens is we get disappointed because we forked over hard earned money for what ends up being worthless junk.

Well here's some good news for you and me, unlike many manufacturing companies around the See **Pastor's Desk** on p. 2

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

world our God don't make Junk! Have you ever had a parent, teacher, or older friend tell you that? Often it is in reference to your own personal worth so that you may be cheered up. Well in today's article I am using it to focus on the fact that God doesn't do things half way, nor does He do it cheaply.

In the Gospel of John Jesus is at a marriage feast and He is there with his disciples and at some point the wine ran out. Yes I said wine, not whine, as in the alcoholic drink, not what someone does when they don't get their way. Either way cheese goes good with both.

Whether the celebration was too good to hold back on the drinking or the host was too cheap to buy enough it doesn't matter. The fact is the wine ran out and somehow Jesus' mother Mary was involved in the celebration oversight committee.

Recognizing the problem she went over to Jesus and stated that they had no more wine. Was it because she wanted her eldest son and most responsible child to go and solve the problem by finding more? Or was it because she knew that her son really could do something about it in a miraculous way?

I think the answer is yes to the first, but not necessarily to the second point. Either way Jesus heard what she had to say and clearly told her that His time had not yet come. In other words He was not ready to reveal Himself in His full glory by performing some miraculous sign or deed. However the refusal to help at the first was not because He couldn't take care of it, for the problem was not too hard for the Maker of all things to handle.

Mary not catching what Jesus said or fully understanding what He meant by that immediately turned to the servants and told them to do whatever He told them to do for she trusted He would do something. Like a good son Jesus wasn't going to let his mother stand there high and dry so He did something about the situation at hand.

Nearby there were six water pots used for cleansing that held up to thirty gallons each. Now these pots were not exactly the most clean for they were used for washing up before meals. However,

Jesus told them to fill each of the pots with water and when done bring some of the liquid to the head waiter. The servants heard the command and they obeyed.

When the head waiter got a taste of the drink he was shocked at how good it was. As he called over the groom he told him that it was the best wine that he had had at the marriage feast. What was strange to the headwaiter was that the host brought out the best wine at the end when everyone got their fill.

It is interesting to note that what was done was done in virtual secrecy. Only those involved in the process knew that the water was tuned into the wine and it was the finest wine made. Like I mentioned earlier God don't make junk.

That is the great thing about our God, He doesn't do things half way, nor does He do them cheaply. He is a God who makes things wonderful and good. Everything He made He has made perfect, it is we who takes what is perfect and taint it with our imperfection. Praise God that He has instituted a reversal to this problem.

Through the process of salvation God takes us and makes those imperfections once again perfect through His Son Jesus who makes all things new. Through salvation in Christ we are made so complete in Him that the junk we have made ourselves to be goes away and He makes us perfect and pure, priceless heirlooms ready to be used for His service.

I hope and pray that you do not see yourself as the junk the world has indoctrinated you to be, but instead you look to the one who makes things perfect and pure and whole and right, to He who makes all things new.

✠ Blessings,
Pastor Jim

Property and Space Patrol

The parking lots and driveway have been plowed several times in the last month, and all walkways as well.

Two small trees were removed from the driveway after the storms.

✠ Pastor Jim

Sustainer of Blessings

This scripture passage and story come from the "Our Daily Bread" devotional booklet for January

31st. It contrasts an Old Testament passage about being filled and satisfied with an event in Boston over 100 years ago where the city got too much of a sweet treat. The ODB writer was James Banks. First read Deuteronomy 8:10-18 and then read the story.

On January 15, 1919, a huge molasses tank burst in Boston. A fifteen-foot wave of more than two million gallons of molasses careened through the street at over 30 mph, sweeping away railcars, buildings, people, and animals. Molasses might seem harmless enough, but that day it was deadly: 21 people lost their lives with more than 150 injured.

Sometimes even good things—like molasses—can overwhelm us unexpectedly. Before the Israelites entered the land God promised them, Moses warned the people to be careful not to take credit for the good things they'd receive: "When you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase . . . , then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God."

They weren't to attribute this wealth to their own strength or capabilities. Instead, Moses said, "Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth." (Deuteronomy 8:12–14, 17–18)

All good things—including physical health and the skills needed to earn a living—are blessings from the hand of our loving God. Even when we've worked hard, it's He who sustains us. Oh, to hold our blessings with open hands, that we may gratefully praise God for His kindness to us!

Navigating the Blues

An Our Daily Brea author, Katara Washington Patton, has a new book in which she offers hope for anyone dealing with depression. She said it was a journey she never wanted to take.

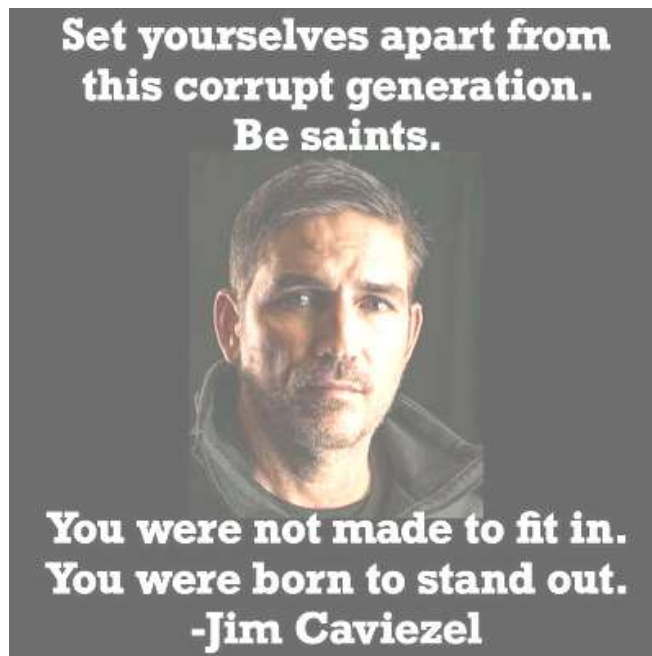
Describing one major factor, she wrote, "I was side swiped by my mother's death. I was struggling to get out of bed. Those were dark, dark days for me."

She offered several practical steps that helped her. Depression is not indicative of your faith. Take it one step at a time. Understand that it's a process.

Know that you are not alone. Turn to Scripture for encouragement.

To order her book, go to go.oddb.org/the-blues. That link takes you to amazon.com.

Saints, Stand Out!



We are living in dark times and we are required by God more than ever to be the light of the world, not to fit in and go-along-to-get-along.

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16, New International Version)

✠ Tom Cairns

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to anyone who celebrates another orbit around the Sun.

If that is you, please let the editor know.



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month:

- 2/2 Frank & Nanette Dawson
- 2/15 Michael & Gail Frascinella

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

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 mornings at 6:30 a.m., enjoy "The Brinkman Adventures," a lively well-done radio drama. In the wee hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings, if you can't sleep, tune in to Praise & Worship music.

During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly. In the evenings catch the latest episode of "Adventures in Odyssey."

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

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.

Sermons are also recorded weekly and published on the web site as podcasts in mp3 format.

Submissions for Next Issue

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



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

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