



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 22 No. 4

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

April 2023

HALLELUJAH, HE IS RISEN

From the Pastor's Desk

Don't Deny It, You Know Jesus!

John 18:15-18; 25-27

This month we are going to celebrate Resurrection Sunday. It is amazing how fast time seems to fly by. Before you know it we will be celebrating Christmas again.

Okay maybe that was a heart attaché that did not need to be administered, but you get my point. On the day in which we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death, we take time to worship Him with family and friends. It is a time in which many people make the effort to come to church service.

You know those two most famous Sundays of the year right? It's Easter Sunday and the Sunday before Christmas, I say before Christmas because if Christmas falls on a Sunday most do not show up. It is amazing how many churches seem to draw in bigger crowds on those two days.

Normally throughout the year many Christians are a little more conservative about bringing people with them to a worship service. It is likely grounded in the belief that on these two special holidays family or friends will make a concession for their faith and friendship, so many unsaved loved ones will go if they're invited.

It reminds me of a passage in John 18:15-27 in which John and Peter followed Jesus together after Jesus had been arrested. The passage tells us that John was known by the former high priest Annas and had access to the early questioning of Jesus before he was sent to Caiaphas who was the present high priest.

In the passage John went into the inner chamber and, -after getting permission to enter - he sent a

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Apr. 2 – Palm Sunday

Apr. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Apr. 9 – Resurrection Sunday

He is risen indeed!

Apr. 29, 8 a.m. – Spring Cleaning Day

Saturday morning, inside & outside



Weekly:

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

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

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study - Book of Revelation

servant girl to get Peter admitted as well. This process for John and the servant was as ordinary as eating cereal for breakfast, because she was only doing her job and she quickly went to escort Peter into the inner chamber to be with John.

While John was setting up the arrangements inside, Peter was left outside in the cold. He was left at the door and probably still dazed and confused by the events that just transpired back in the garden. Peter was left to think about the betrayal of Judas and he had time to think about how the other nine disciples had fled for their lives, leaving Jesus to be handed over to the

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

temple guards, Roman soldiers, and members of the Sanhedrin.

While Peter had time alone with his thoughts he remained outside the high priest's home, this solitude only signified the loneliness that he felt inside his heart. He wasn't ready to hear the voice of the servant girl when she appeared and his mind was not prepared to hear the question that was going to be asked of him.

Peter was feeling too guilty already for letting his Master down, for in a feeble attempt to save Jesus he needlessly cut off the ear of one of the servants. The reason why it was feeble was that after he did that Jesus chastised him for living by the sword and then undid the damage by healing the servant. He probably couldn't believe that Jesus would willingly go with the mob, but everything that happened earlier indicated that is what He actually did.

With Peter all disorientated, the servant girl came to him and asked, "You are not one of His disciples, are you?" The question was probably one in which she was verifying that she had the right person to escort into the inner chambers of the home. It probably wasn't one of accusation or of speculative inquiry, but instead she was probably just trying to complete the task demanded of her or that of any servant who would have been asked to let someone in.

But that was not the way Peter interpreted her question. His mind had enough time alone in the dark and cold to conjure up fears that at the moment were unnecessary and uncalled for. Yet to begin the prophetic utterance of Christ concerning this follower Peter in turn answered in fear, "I am not."

I wonder what must have been going through his mind at this point. He hadn't yet fully grasped the ramifications of his denial of being a follower of Jesus, but he was definitely on the path of failure and sinfulness. Even with this denial she had escorted him in and he entered the door and came into the front chambers of the court yard and that probably spiritually represented his entering into the three denials of Jesus.

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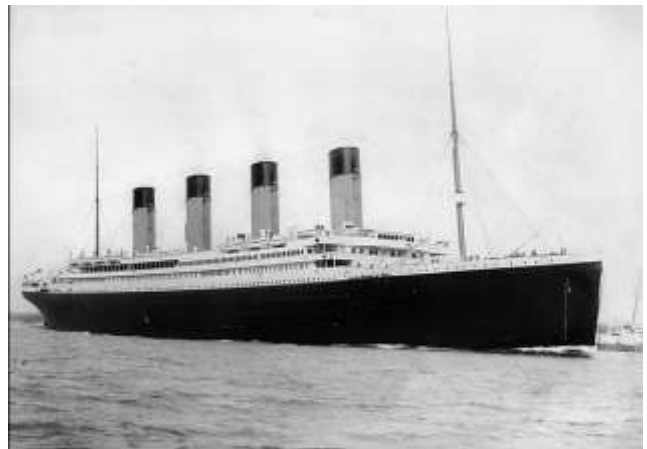
Spring Cleaning Day

On **Saturday April 29th at 8:00 a.m.**, we will spend a few hours doing Spring Cleaning inside the church and cleaning up the grounds to get ready for mowing season. If you are able to help with any of the tasks, please plan to arrive around 8:00 a.m.

As they say, many hands make light work. so if we have enough people to pitch in, then it should not take more than a few hours.

One task that takes a bit of effort is to haul the A/C units from the first floor and install them in the windows. Pastor Al is an old hand at this.

Remembering the Titanic



[The following is an excerpt from *The Band That Played On: The Extraordinary Story of the Eight Musicians Who Went Down with the Titanic* (Thomas Nelson, 2011), by Steve Turner.]

Henry Van Dyke, professor of English literature at Princeton, believed that the very procedure of putting women and children first [on the lifeboats] was an instinctive application of a Christian principle.

This is why the band emerged as such heroes. Not only had they behaved dutifully and without apparent concern for their own safety, but they also offered the hope that not all of the younger male generation were venial, lazy, proud, irreligious, inconsiderate, self-indulgent, weak-willed and timorous.

If eight random men could display such strength of character in unison on the spur of the moment,

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the chances were that another eight men randomly selected would react in the same way.

George Orrell, bandmaster on the ship Carpathia in 1912, told Herman Finck, musical director of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, that the musicians on any ship at the time were accustomed to the idea that they would be asked to play at any time that passengers were distressed.

After the Titanic struck the iceberg on April 15, 1912, bandleader Wallace Hartley had the band play bright music, dance music, comic songs—anything that would prevent the passengers from becoming panic-stricken. ... Then various awe-stricken passengers began to think of the death that faced them and asked the bandmaster to play hymns. The one which appealed to all was, “Nearer, My God, to Thee.”

It also appears to have inspired singing in the lifeboats. Passengers spoke of “Nearer, My God, to Thee” being sung by the survivors as they drifted on the water.

When a search party from the cable-repair ship CS Mackay-Bennett pulled Titanic bandleader Wallace Hartley’s lifeless body from the Atlantic Ocean, they found a violin case strapped to his chest.

Hartley’s fiancé, Maria Robinson, wrote a draft of a letter in her diary, “I would be most grateful if you could convey my heartfelt thanks to all who have made possible the return of my late fiancé’s violin.” After several years of research and vetting by an auction house, the violin was given a market value of \$1.7 million.

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In regard to his fall he just came into the building and had not yet committed himself to the inner chambers of sin and denial. So he excused himself from the presence of the servant girl and went to warm himself by the fire that had been built by others. He didn’t know it, but his sifting by Satan had begun.

The story broke for a moment and focused on Jesus being questioned and confronted by the former high priest. After a brief interlude the divinely led narrator John gets back to Peter by the fire. One of the other companions of the fire

glanced over at him and asked, “You are not one of His disciples, are you?”

This question was probably less accusatory as it might seem. At a quick glance it might seem to be confrontational, but instead it was probably a question that was based on the practical.

The inquisitive man saw someone he did not notice, a man who wasn’t part of any known group in the inner chambers, so the individual was probably deducing that Peter was with Jesus. After all who else could he have been with? Peter was probably still reeling over the fact that he was already asked that question once and he was still off balance from the earlier encounter and now after being asked a second time Peter responds, “I am not.”

The response seems simple enough, but it is packed with more than the three words would indicate. It was step two out of three to complete the fall. He was two-thirds on his way to knowing the full ramifications of his actions. Peter was probably shaking his head; shouldn’t this person have heard the earlier questioning of the girl? Surely he had to have heard the answer that was already given to the question repeated. Regardless, Peter denied Jesus once again.

Matthew’s account in 26:73 tells us that a little time elapsed between the second and third question. John tells us that this time someone who was related to the man whose ear was cut off by Peter earlier in the evening was going to ask the question. This man chimes in and says to Peter, “Didn’t I see you with Him in the olive grove?”

Not only was this man questioning his affiliation with Jesus, but he was witness to Peter being in another place at the same time with Christ. Now Peter is in a real jam. Not only had he already lied twice, but now he is confronted by someone who really does recognize him. What to do now?

Should he have given in? Should he have admitted it and then accepted the same fate that his Lord and Master was to receive?

After all he was the one who boldly proclaimed that if all the other disciples were to fall away that he would not. He claimed he was willing to follow Jesus all the way to his death, but there were so

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many people present. There was a great amount of opposition to Jesus and He doesn't seem to care that He was going to His death.

The miracle worker who had the power to feed thousands and the power to stop the waves and wind wasn't going to lift a finger. This wasn't what Peter thought was going to happen. Surely the Messiah was greater than this. Peter was faced with a difficult momentary decision and the passage appears to make it look like it was something that Peter just conceded to. The passage reads, "Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow."

Peter's denial was complete. No lightning came down and struck him dead. No one hauled him off to be whipped and flogged. No one seemed to care at all that he denied Jesus. After all no one was after Peter anyway, they wanted the one who claimed to be God. The religious leaders wanted the trouble maker Jesus who was the ring leader and had crowds following Him. The Pharisees wanted the One who was stealing their thunder and authority.

It is clear from this passage that no one cared that Peter denied Jesus, no one except Jesus that is. Luke 22:61 tells us that at that moment Jesus turned and looked right at Peter. It was then that Peter realized that he had let his Master, Teacher, and Savior down. He was at the end of a fulfilled prophecy. Peter was alone and he ran off and wept bitterly as the other Gospels tell it.

Can you imagine the devastation, the despair, the totality of what he did? He denied knowing the One who was about to die for his sins. He denied the One who loved him more than he loved himself. He denied knowing the God of all creation. What a feeling that must have been. Talk about being outside looking in.

We must not be too hard on Peter though, for many Christians today have and still do deny knowing Jesus. That is one of the reasons for why our churches are so empty each and every Sunday morning. We interpret simple questions by friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family as being part of inquisition, when all the while they probably just want to try and figure out what you see in this Jesus you have mentioned in the past.

We get defensive and state to those around us that our faith is personal and it is no one else's business. Often when asked we just assume strike up a different topic of conversation than to talk about church or our faith.

No, Peter is not alone in denying the experiential knowledge of Jesus, but instead of remaining down in the dumps about his failure Peter was restored to prominence and then turned around and was never again ashamed to know Jesus or to be associated with Him.

Have you reached that point in your faith? Have you reached the point of total conviction of living for Jesus? I hope and pray so. With this upcoming Easter season upon us let me encourage you to be bold in your faith. Tell others about Jesus, don't get defensive about your faith, be willing to be questioned. You just might find that someone wants to see your faith in action, not in failure.

Lift your head up and boldly profess your association with your Savior, for He associates Himself with you. After all when it comes to your salvation don't deny it, you know Jesus!

God bless,

✠ Pastor Jim

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to those people who celebrate another orbit around the Sun. If that is you, please let the editor know about it.



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

4/28 Pastor Al & Rachel Page

4/28 Peter & Julie Jenkins

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

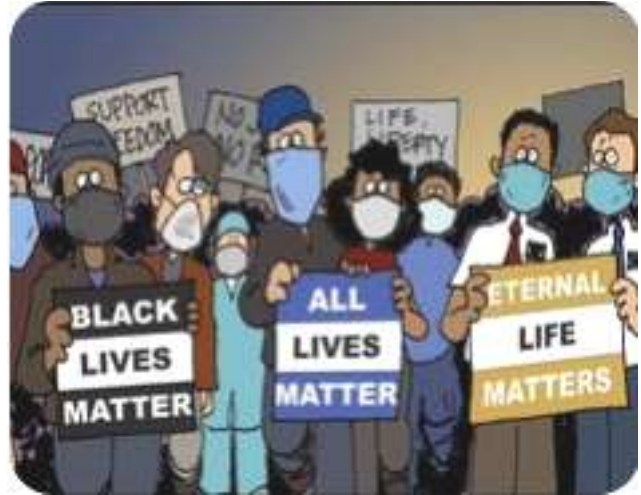
In the Concord area, get more of God's Word by tuning into New Hampshire Gospel Radio at 99.1 FM or 104.3 FM.

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/>.

A Bit of Humor



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 Apr. 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.

Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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