



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

July 2023

Deny Yourself and Make Him First

From the Pastor's Desk

Difficult Words

Luke 14:26-27

“You don’t have what it takes” were the difficult words I heard when I was just 18 years of age indicating that I had no skills for plumbing work. I don’t provide the following list as a way to brag just to point out something.

I had just graduated from high school, accomplished two years of apprenticeship through the vocational center in Manchester, won the state championship in a high school plumbing competition in Dover, and just got back from Tulsa, Oklahoma where I came in eighth nationally in competition.

This was the critical assessment passed down to me by the owner of the company, which ultimately was from one of the much older employees in which we had recently had a bad day together. Even though I had glowing reports from all the other journeymen plumbers for two years, it was based upon this assessment that I was fired for the first time in my life.

Difficult words and phrases tend to stick with us. Often such words are connected to important moments in our life or they are words that grate against our sensibilities.

Jesus was known for His difficult words throughout His ministry. In Luke 14:26-27 He said, “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” (NASB)

Upcoming Events and Meetings

July 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord’s Supper

July 4 – Independence Day



July 16 – Potluck Lunch and Business Meeting

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

What did Jesus mean by His words? Did He really mean that we had to hate others in order to love Him? Did He really intend for us to be haters of

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

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ourselves? Of course such difficult words lend to difficult interpretations or to the rejection of the passage altogether.

In reference to this text we must immediately consider the rest of Scripture where we are told to love our enemies and to pray for those who mistreat us (Matthew 5:44). If we are commanded by Jesus to love others (and we are), then it stands to reason that the word "hate" in our passage must not be understood in the modern sense of hating something, but is to be interpreted in another way. Often the translations from one culture to another miss out on colloquialisms and those idiosyncrasies that exist in other cultures. We are very familiar with ours here in America, especially in the Northeast.

I remember once driving with someone who asked me if I wanted a piece of gum and I told him, "I'm all set." Little did I realize, for I was fairly new to that region, that such a statement was strange to someone from the Midwest. For the next ten miles or so he poked fun at me for using such a strange phrase that implied I did not need the gum.

I remember years ago asking one of my daughters if she wanted more Tic Tacs. Her response to me was, "I'm good." What did she mean from that? Was she implying that somehow not taking the ticktack made her more morally upright? Did it mean that her entire ethos was based upon her having or not having such a small thing as a Tic Tac? Did she actually indicate that the Tic Tacs she already consumed imputed goodness into her?

In all actuality her response implied neither, for in our culture the term simply referred to the fact that she did not need to have any more or that she did not care to have another one.

Such things are seen in other parts of our culture and language. Today if someone says, "That's bad" it really means it is good. If someone says, "That's phat (fat)" then they are implying it is trendy and pleasing to the eyes. If someone says, "Man that was cold," chances are the person was not referring to the temperature of an item or room, but to the mean disposition or flippant response or act towards another.

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Fellowship Events

On Sunday July 16 at midday, the church will hold a Potluck Lunch and Business Meeting. Potluck means you can bring something to share with the others, whether it is a main dish, cooked veggies, or dessert (not to be confused with desert which is to dry to eat). Members and visitors alike are welcome to participate.

After the lunch, Pastor Jim will officiate at the business meeting, which will cover income and expenses, maintenance and repairs that may be needed in the near future, and any other topics of interest.

Property and Space Patrol

Lawn mowing is ongoing. One of the three A/C units in the sanctuary has stopped working. Estimates are still being sought for painting the church exterior.

✠ Pastor Al & Pastor Jim

Memorable Historic Dates in July



This month we celebrate the foundational dates for our country. It was a time when faith in God was strong, particularly among our national leaders, but today it is under assault from atheists and political leftists

who think it is better to trust in government, academia, or multinational corporations than Almighty God.

For example, last June the U.S. Supreme Court finally decided that there was no constitutional right to abortion, that the decision was up to each state. The abortion activists and their congressional supporters went nuts, demanding the government restore a woman's right to kill an unwanted baby.

But let us compare where we are now with significant events from way back then:

July 3, 1775 - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

July 5, 1775 - The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for reconciliation with Britain. But King George III

would not even look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation that the colonists were in a state of open rebellion.

July 2, 1776 - The Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the following resolution, originally introduced on June 7, by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia:

“Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.”

July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress. A copy was sent to King George as an FYI.

July 8, 1776 - The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred when Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia.

July 9, 1776 – With British troops massing around New York City, George Washington ordered the Declaration to be read to troops assembled there.

October 19, 1781 – British General Lord Cornwallis surrendered to American and French forces at Yorktown, Virginia.

July 2, 1788 - The United States Constitution was ratified by the required nine states out of the original 13.

July 4, 1826 – Former Presidents Thomas Jefferson (83) and John Adams (90), the last surviving members of the original American revolutionaries, died unexpectedly on the same day within five hours of each other on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

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It is obvious that when one culture peers into another culture there can be misinterpretations of terminologies and mix-ups of understanding because of the colloquialisms and idiosyncrasies

of the differing cultures. The same is true for today’s passage.

When Jesus tells us to hate our family and ourselves, He does not mean that we are to loathe them or treat ourselves as enemies of ourselves. What He is saying is that we are to love Him more than ourselves or anyone else in our lives, that we must be willing to sacrifice ourselves for Him if duty calls us to. Jesus knew the only way we could truly live or die for Him was if we came to the realization that we must place ourselves and others second to Him.

If we truly love Him more than anyone else in our lives, then we will be willing to do anything for Him when called to do so. Thus, if we love Him more, then we will reject others who are against Him, even if they are family members. If we love Him more, then we will be willing to die and trust that God will take care of our family members in our absence. If we love Him more, then we will always be found on His side against any naysayers to His claim of being God and Savior.

These words on the surface are definitely difficult words to many people. Often individuals reject the passage because of the harshness that such a word as “hate” implies. This word makes people turn their heads and reject the Savior for passing on a message of bigotry and intolerance.

However, I wish to open up to you a deeper understanding. For those who are immediately turned away from such a statement do so without ever finding out the deeper meaning, but when you find out the true meaning you will see something more clearly.

What makes this statement difficult is not the words themselves, but what we are called to do, and that is to deny ourselves and make Him first in our lives over and above everyone else. Thus, the interpretation of the passage is more difficult to the senses than the actual words that so easily offend others.

There are many other passages in Scripture that are similar if difficulty, let me encourage you not to immediately reject such difficult words, but to take the time and uncover what really makes the passage difficult. Often you will find that people

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reject the words more quickly because deep down they know that the meaning of the text is harder to accept than just the words themselves.

In regards to today's passage, I hope and pray that you have come down on the side of Jesus. That you make Him first in your life and that you have learned to live for Him no matter what He asks of you. That you will be willing to pick up your cross and follow Him no matter where He leads you.

God Bless,
Pastor Jim

Your Presence Is Requested

The following from Focus on the Family Magazine are some ideas by Levi Lusko, pastor of Fresh Life Church and author of six books.

My wife, Jenny, and I were laughing about a conversation with our daughter about how opposites attract. After explaining this concept to her, I said, "That's why your mother and I do so well together; we get along because we're so different."

Her exact response was, "You and mom get along?" – Ouch! Kids.

There are no perfect marriages. Not at church, not from pastors or therapists or neighbors who appear to have it all together. But God isn't asking for perfect. He's looking for fruitfulness. And the way to fruitfulness is by fearing God and being intentional in your relationship with Him.

In a practical sense, it's you and your spouse figuring out what time with God could look like in your marriage.

Your lives may already be full of jobs, kids, dirty dishes, soccer practice, the gym, and a million other things competing for your attention. Where do you and your spouse begin carving out time to spend as a couple with the Lord?

If you are not sure how to start, try this: Begin small and see where God leads.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to these people celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

7/19 Frank Dawson

7/21 Florence Omar

7/22 Gabriel Davis



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone celebrating a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, let the editor know about it.

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 July 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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