

Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 14 No. 3

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2015

CALLED TO BE FAITHFUL WITNESSES

From the Pastor's Desk

Remembering the Call

Matthew 4:18-22

There are moments in life that stick out more clearly in the mind than others. I remember when I was five and it snowed when my family and I were living in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The snow fell, we played in it, and then the fluffy white stuff melted away that same day.

I remember when I was six and my parents moved the family into an old Victorian home in Manchester, New Hampshire in December 1978. The driveway was rocky and unpaved, the house was large and cold, the rooms were poorly lit, and we had no stove, so my dad had to grill out in the snow and cold so we could eat.

I remember graduating from high school and afterwards I went to Hampton Beach with the most beautiful girl in the world to celebrate the occasion. By the way the most beautiful girl in the world is Michelle and we married two years later, which is another event I will never forget in my life.

Other events in life like the birth of my three children, graduating from college and seminary, pastoring my first church, moving back to New Hampshire and soon after coming to pastor Hillside Baptist Church are all moments in my life that I remember with clarity. However there is another event in life that I remember with the greatest clarity and it was the day that God got ahold of my heart and the Holy Spirit moved in my life to answer the call of Jesus to follow Him as my Lord and Savior. The moment it happened, the going forward at church, the baptism shared with friends and family, are permanently fixed in my memory bank and to this day is the most important moment in my life.

Remembering the call to follow Jesus reminds me of a passage in Scripture in which Jesus called two sets of two brothers to follow him. It is found in Matthew 4:18-22 which says, "Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Mar. 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 7, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a Bible discussion.

Mar. 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Spring is in the air!

Apr. 18 – Spring Workday

Time to pitch in and remove winter damage and prepare the church for Springtime.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

As we consider this passage we must realize that this is not the first encounter that Jesus had with these two sets of brothers. Andrew was a follower of John the Baptist and, when John pointed to Jesus as the Messiah, Andrew immediately got Peter and they went to investigate what John's claim meant.

However, one must not assume that, because they were in their boats soon after their initial encounter with Jesus, they did not feel a draw to him. Instead, we should recognize that they needed to make a living and could not afford to just hang out all day following a guy around who had not called them to be his disciples. After all they were uneducated men who did not have the right connections.

John and James, the sons of Zebedee, we find out later, were Jesus' cousins through his mother, Mary. John and James were the sons of Mary's sister and they would have known who Jesus was, not as the Messiah, but as their cousin. So we should not expect that they were clamoring at Jesus to follow Him, for Jesus had not yet called anyone to follow Him.

The calling that Jesus gave these four men was a life-

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On the web at <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

changing event for them, just as it was for me, and I hope it was for you as well. This is why the moment of salvation is permanently fixed in the mind of the believer, because it is a moment in time when the individual is changed forever. Just as Peter, Andrew, James, and John were never going to be the same, neither are we for the salvific [relating to redemptive power --ed.] work that Jesus does within us in one that is life-altering and impactful.

These men who were once fishermen would go on to be the Apostles of Christ who went out and fished for men and women to become followers of Jesus, to answer the call. I would imagine that these four men, before their deaths, must have remembered the moment Jesus came up to them in the early morning commissioning them to drop what they were doing and to answer the call to a higher purpose in life. What they did was go about the country and shared what Jesus did in their lives and their testimony affected thousands, even millions over the course of Christian history.

Though not every Christian is called into the ministry, every Christian is called to be faithful witnesses to what Jesus has done in their lives. I would like to encourage you today to consider the day that Jesus called you out, the day that He sought you, courted you, and won you to Himself for eternity. This is the testimony that you are called to give to everyone who will listen. When it comes to witnessing all one must do is testify about the salvation experience you have had in your life.

Though not all will agree with your final conclusion that Jesus is the Savior of all Mankind, they cannot balk at your testimony and changed life. All they can simply do is dismiss you and reject it for themselves or answer the call of Jesus based on your testimony.

May the sharing of your unforgettable encounter with Jesus produce within others an equally unforgettable moment in their lives. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless and keep you as you look to serve Him faithfully.

God bless,
✠ Pastor Jim

Property and Space Patrol

Bob LaValley did the bulk of the plowing in February and there has been tons of snow, especially on the weekends. We managed to clear the driveways enough to hold Services on three out of four Sundays. Pastor Jim and Connor have done all the shoveling of walkways. Thank you so much for your labors.

Now we wait for Spring to get the grounds cleaned up. When will snow be gone? I think about April 5th.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Men's Breakfast

Hopefully the snow will keep melting by the time March 7 rolls around. Whatever the weather, join the guys for the March Men's Breakfast at 8:a.m. Someone always cooks up some tasty grub, the fellowship is lively (even though

football season is over), and we always have a robust Bible discussion to round out our time together.

Here is a challenge: bring another guy with you. We don't bite!

Inspirational Poem

The following poem was submitted by Pastor Al.

The Easy Road

The easy roads are crowded,
And the level roads are jammed;
The pleasant little rivers,
With drifting folks are crammed.

But off yonder where it's rocky,
Where you get the better view
You will find the ranks are thinning
And the travelers are few.

Where the going's smooth and pleasant
You will always find a throng,
For many, mores the pity,
Seem to like to drift along.

But the steps that call for courage
And the task that's hard to do,
In the end results in glory
For the never-wavering few.
--Author Unknown

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." (NKJV)

Deliver Us from the Internet

With all the companies whose internal computer networks have been hacked by people with evil intent, it seems like you are taking risks just opening a web browser. The Internet is a great resource for many positive, inspiring, useful, and informative things, but the devious, criminal, and even terrorist elements constantly seek to pervert it to their own heinous ends. The break-in at Anthem Health Insurance is only the latest example.

After recently having my wife's laptop repaired at Staples after being damaged by malware from the web, I talked with the technician about security suites. A security suite is an integrated collection of software that provides protection from external threats via a firewall, and tools that ferret out viruses, malware, spyware, trojans, e-mail scams, spam, and other items.

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Deliver Us (from p. 2)

The technician advised against using the free download of Norton Security available to Comcast customers. This is apparently an older version. He said a better choice is Norton 360 Premier Edition from Symantec, which includes a five-PC license. Going up from there, the next better choice is Kaspersky Internet Security from Kaspersky Lab, which also includes a five-PC license. The best security software according to the technician is ESET Smart Security from ESET North America. For that vendor, the licensing requires you to drop off your PC so they can install the software. When I worked down in Mass., the company's IT Dept. decided on ESET as the best corporate security suite, so that seemed to reinforce the technician's opinion.

Whatever you do for computer security, don't just rely on price or advertising. Get technical opinions from people in the business and look for a consensus that leads to the best choice.

Digging for Treasure

The following gem of an article by Haddon W. Robinson comes from *Our Daily Bread* for Dec. 28, 2005. It still withstands the test of time.

Profitable Bible study involves more than just opening to a chapter and reading what's there. Here are seven guidelines to help you make the most of your study of the Bible.

1. Set aside a regular time. Unless you schedule it, you'll neglect it.
2. Before you start reading, ask God for help and understanding.
3. Carefully think about what you are reading. Not all of the Bible's treasures lie like pebbles on the surface. To mine the gold, you have to dig.
4. Seek to understand what the author was saying to the first people who read the book or letter before you decide how to apply it today.
5. Write down at least one truth or principle you can put into practice.
6. Try different translations of the Bible. If you find yourself skimming over familiar words, a new translation may focus your mind on the passage in a new way.
7. Don't get discouraged. Some parts of the Bible are more interesting than others, and some you may not understand at all. But there's enough that you can understand, and it will revolutionize your life if you apply it.

Now read your daily devotional again with these principles in mind. Then try it again tomorrow. You will begin to discover the treasures in the Bible.

When reading God's Word, take special care
To find the rich treasures hidden there;
Give thought to each line, each precept clear,
Then practice it well with godly fear. -Anon.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating a birthday this month:

- 3/2 Natalie Carleton
- 3/7 Jesse Page
- 3/29 Abbey Lafa
- 3/30 Amanda Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on whoever celebrates a wedding anniversaries this month. We don't know of any for March.

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 will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord.

Hillside on the Web

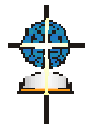
Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is March 25. Send news items to News Wrangler 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.



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