

Peter's Breakfast with Jesus

See the fellow in the shadows? That's Peter. Peter the apostle. Peter the impetuous. Peter the passionate. He once walked on water. Stepped right out of the boat onto the lake. He'll soon preach to thousands. Fearless before friends and foes alike. But tonight the one who stepped on the water has hurried into hiding. The one who will speak with power is weeping in pain. Not sniffing or whimpering, but weeping. Bawling. Bearded face buried in thick hands. What hurts more? The fact that he did it? Or the fact that he swore he never would? "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and even to die with you!" he pledged only hours earlier. "But Jesus said, Peter, before the rooster crows this day, you will say three times that you don't know Me. —Luke 22:33-34

Denying Christ on the night of His betrayal was bad enough, but did he have to boast that he wouldn't? And one denial was pitiful, but 3? Three denials were horrific, but did he have to curse? Peter began to place a curse on himself and swear, 'I don't know the man'. — Matt. 26:74 And now, awash in a whirlpool of sorrow, Peter is hiding. Peter is weeping. And soon Peter will be fishing.

We wonder why he goes fishing. We know why he goes to Galilee. He had been told that the risen Christ would meet the disciples there. The arranged meeting place is not the sea, however, but a mountain (Matt. 28:16). If the followers were to meet Jesus on a mountain, what are they doing in a boat? No one told them to fish, but that's what they did. Simon Peter said, 'I am going out to fish.' The others said, 'We will go with you'. — John 21:3 Besides, didn't Peter quit fishing? Two years earlier, when Jesus called him to fish for men, didn't he drop his net and follow? We haven't seen him fish since. We never see him fish again. Why is he fishing now? Especially now! Jesus has risen from the dead. Peter has seen the empty tomb. Who could fish at a time like this? Were they hungry? Perhaps that's the sum of it. Maybe the expedition was born out of growling stomachs. Or then again, maybe it was born out of a broken heart. You see, Peter could not deny his denial. The empty tomb did not erase the crowing rooster. Christ had returned, but Peter wondered, he must have wondered, After what I did, would He return for someone like me?

We've wondered the same. Is Peter the only person to do the very thing he swore he'd never do?

- "Infidelity is behind me!"
- "From now on, I'm going to bridle my tongue."
- "No more shady deals. I've learned my lesson."

Oh, the volume of our boasting. And, oh, the heartbreak of our shame. Rather than resist the flirting, we return it. Rather than ignore the gossip, we share it. Rather than stick to the truth, we shade it. And the rooster crows, and conviction pierces, and Peter has a partner in the shadows.

We weep as Peter wept, and we do what Peter did. We go fishing. We go back to our old lives. We return to our pre-Jesus practices. We do what comes naturally, rather than what comes spiritually. And we question whether Jesus has a place for folks like us.

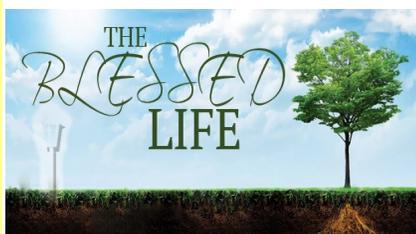
Jesus answers that question. He answers it for you and me and all who tend to "Peter out" on Christ. His answer came on the shore of the sea in a gift to Peter. You know what Jesus did? Split the waters? Turn the boat to gold and the nets to silver? No, Jesus did something much more meaningful. He invited Peter to breakfast. Jesus prepared a meal.

Of course, the breakfast was one special moment among several that morning. There was the great catch of fish and the recognition of Jesus. The plunge of Peter and the paddling of the disciples. And there was the moment they reached the shore and found Jesus next to a fire of coals. The fish were sizzling, and the bread was waiting, and the defeater of hell and the ruler of Heaven invited His friends to sit down and have a bite to eat. No one could have been more grateful than Peter.

Hillside Highlights

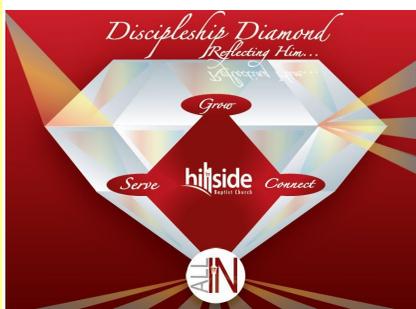
www.hillsideomoncton.org

April 22, 2014



New Series Starts This Sunday!

Look around you. No matter who you are, there is something to be thankful for. A roof over your head, the food in your fridge, your family and friends. Every day that you are in good health, that you get to go to work, that you get to drink clean water. Each of these things are truly a gift! And in gratitude for God's goodness in your life, Christ followers should overflow with hearts of generosity. This is the blessed life that Jesus came to give us. Don't miss this timely series as Pastor Jerry begins with the message "The Blessed Mindset".



Upcoming Opportunities to

Connect

Grow

Serve:

- ▶ "Finding Your Serve" this Sunday, April 27th @ 9:15am
- ▶ "Developing Habits" this Sunday, April 27th, 2-4pm
- ▶ "Getting Started" next Sunday, May 4th @ 11:00am



Managing Our Finances God's Way is a 7-week, video-based small group study. Beginning next Sunday May 4th at 9:15am in the HYM Café (note change of start date and time), this course will help you learn to live debt-free and/or manage your finances in a way that will honor God. Stay tuned for additional course offering times!



"**The Indestructible Marriage**" is video teaching by Jimmy Evans

Who? All Couples: Married, Engaged or Pre-Engaged.

When? Monday Nights (only 4 weeks) 6:00-7:30

- May 5th, May 12th
- May 26th, June 2nd

Cost? \$10 per couple per week includes

- Child Care
- Pizza, Salad, Dessert for adults

Email info@hillsideomoncton.org if you are interested in attending any of these.



Guys, our spring "Main Event" is coming soon! It will be held here in our "Man Cave" on Friday, May 9, 6-9pm. Pastor Dave will bring a highly relevant message plus guest artist Tim Milner will be leading us in worship. And as always, these main events include food, friends, laughter, and honest conversations.



An evening of beautiful music paired with authentic stories tasty refreshments and shared with the best of friends! Experience Jason & Charmaine Grace Brown's powerful combination of poignant acoustic musicianship and stunning voices On Thursday, May 22nd @ 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm) for ladies Grade 7 and up. The cost is \$15 each before May 16th and \$20 after or at the door!



Tonight — Ignition HD (High School) 7pm

Wed. — PowerUP! (Kids 4 years old—Grade 5)

Thurs. — LIFT (Ladies Bible Study) 9:15am

Fri./Sat.— 30 Hour Famine for both High School and Middle School youth 7:00pm. Have you donated yet. Go to hillsideomoncton.org, click the Youth tab and then Middle School Ignition. Scroll down the page to see April 25-26 and click the link!

Mon. — Monday Morning Bible Study 9:30am