



Grace Hill Church

The Mission of Grace Hill Is to Gather People to the Table of Christ, Who Is the Bread of Life, to Be Transformed by His Grace, Renewed in His Truth, and Sent on His Mission.

...it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. ~Luke 1.3-4

John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ~Luke 3.16-17

The way to know for sure whether Jesus is the Christ is to go back to his person and work. This is what we should always do when God fails to meet our expectations, when we are overwhelmed by our personal problems and plagued with doubt. We need to go back to Jesus and look again to see who he is and what he does. Here John the Baptist had the right instinct. Rather than simply brooding over his skeptical doubts, he sent his disciples to go and see Jesus: "And when the men had come to him, they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"' " (Luke 7:20). Philip Ryken, *Luke*, p. 330.

"The saying [v.23] thus refers to the possibility of a person not accepting Jesus as 'the coming One' because he 'stumbles' at the kind of things done or left undone by Jesus, and thinks that he should have behaved differently." ~Marshall, *Luke*, p 292.

"The key to this beatitude [v.23] is its personal focus on Jesus. He is the issue, and those who will deal with what God is doing must deal with him. Those who doubt are called to trust in him." ~Bock, *Luke* (Baker), p. 669.

April 11, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #14

Question: Did God create us unable to keep his law?

Answer: No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature and unable to keep God's law.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Luke 7.18–23*

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying,

"Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'"

²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed [NET: granted] sight.

²² And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Sermon: Asking Jesus; Listening to His Response

Outline:

1. A Question We Might Have Along the Way, v.18–20
 - a. Someone or yourself?
 - b. Look for another?
2. The Answer Jesus Gives to John and to Us, v.21–22
3. The Call of Jesus to Find Blessing in Him, v.23

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God we confess we each struggle with different parts of the question raised here (v.19, 20). Some of us wonder “Do I need anyone? I think I can just save myself.” Others of us wonder “Is Jesus the true Savior, the only one?” Yet, others of us believe in Jesus, but we sometimes are unsure, as John is. But hearing Jesus’ call, we confess we long for His blessedness (v.23). Forgive us. Help us.

Father, You know that we cannot bless or save ourselves. So out of Your truth and love, You gave Your Son Jesus to graciously heal our blindness with His sight, our lameness with His fitness. Jesus, by Your sacrifice and victory, heal us spiritually, sustain our whole being, heal Your world. Holy Spirit, though we are poor, lead each one of us to find the full gospel blessedness in Jesus.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places ~Eph. 1.3

Responding to the Lord with Worship

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction (“the good word”)

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13.20–21)

Announcements:

- **Note:** GH Session encourages everyone to get the Covid 19 vaccine as soon as you are able. It is, of course, your decision, but it can be a tool that will enable us to more quickly gather together as a full church. Choose your preferred provider but here is the link for the Duke waiting list: <https://www.dukehealth.org/covid-19-update/join-waiting-list>
- **Shower the Elniffs!**
 1. Purchase a gift card to Walmart, Once Upon A Child in Durham, Weaver Street Market, or Amazon.
 2. Send a note or a written prayer for their family encouraging them during this transition time. Their address: 626 Freeland Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278.
- **Called to Lead: Yourself and Others. Leadership/Discipleship Monthly Meeting:** The Session invites everyone to Called to Lead meeting this Tuesday, 4/27/21.
- **Worship in Offering:** Three ways to worship the Lord with your tithes and offerings
 1. Use your bank’s BillPay system to give to Grace Hill
 2. Send a physical check
 3. Use our mobile giving option (either as a guest or by setting up an account):
 - <https://faithlife.com/grace-hill-church/give> or text the word “Give” to 919 296 1330.
- **Resurrection Renews Our Proper Scope: All Nations.** Ready for a Missions Challenge? Sign up to pray for Muslims during Ramadan (4/12 – 5/12) at Lovemuslims.org using the videos of Prayercast.com. In a time when they are seeking God, pray for Christ to be revealed to them. OR use the prayer resource from Worldchristian.com



Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14–18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ’s grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached at ross@gracehillnc.org or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, daniel@gracehillnc.org. Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Our Communications Coordinator is Andrea Sterling, andrea@gracehillnc.org Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc