



# New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, July 17, 2022

Vol. 15, Issue 40

## PASTORAL PONDERING

### SHIMON'S STORY

*"Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, 'Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?' And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him." [Luke 22:63-65 ESV]*

My name is Shimon. I was a member of the security force at the high priest's house in Jerusalem. The high priest (we called him "the HP") didn't really need a security force, but he wanted to feel safe. The guys on the force used to laugh and say, "It makes the old man feel important."

There was this teacher who had been around for about three years. He was from Galilee, but periodically he would show up in Jerusalem. His name was Jesus, and he was very popular among the common people. There were stories that he healed many people. If Jesus hadn't been so popular, he would have been ignored completely by the higher-ups. But he was popular. Very popular. So the HP wanted to do away with him. Most of the security force thought he was jealous of Jesus, but frankly, I think he actually feared him. Something was going to happen. I was sure of it.

One night while I was on duty, something happened that our commander called "The Big Break." Some days before, one of the disciples of Jesus had come to the council and offered to find an opportunity when they would be able to arrest Jesus. Tonight, the betrayer had informed the HP that Jesus and his disciples would be in a garden just outside Jerusalem. There would be no crowd, so an arrest would be easy. Most of the security force left for the garden.

We found Jesus and his disciples. Most of the disciples were asleep, so it was easy to control them. One of them woke up and began wielding a sword. I heard that he had cut off the ear of a servant of the HP, but it was dark and in the flickering light of our torches it was hard to tell what was going on. When I looked at the servant's ear and protested that it was perfectly healthy and attached to his head, another member of the security force said he saw Jesus heal the detached ear. I'm not sure what actually happened.

We tied Jesus' hands so he couldn't resist, and we brought him to the HP's house. Jesus' faithful disciples ran for the hills, so to speak. Once back at our headquarters, our commander told us to "have a little fun" with the prisoner. Since he was said to be a prophet, someone suggested we should challenge him to

*Continued on next page...*

## PASTORAL PONDERING

...continued

demonstrate his prophetic gift. We blindfolded him and began to hit him and demand that he identify who did it. He never said a word, and I began to have second thoughts about our “fun.” But the enthusiasm of my security force friends got the best of me, and I entered in. I wound up and hit Jesus as hard as I could right on the cheek. His head jerked back, and I knew it really hurt. But then he broke his silence said something that shocked me. He said, “You are Shimon, son of Hilkiah, son of Mathias.” I suddenly felt very weak. I thought I was going to collapse to the floor. I’m sure my face went pale. How could he know it was me? How could he know my name? How could he know the names of my father and grandfather? I was struggling to figure out what was going on.

I finally found the strength to cry out. “Stop! This man is innocent.” I turned to Jesus and said, “Lord, you know all things. You know I’m a sinner. Please forgive me.” Jesus said nothing. He simply looked at me and smiled. I burst into tears.

Of course, it didn’t happen like that, but a little fiction can lead us to think. That’s my desire with this Pastoral Pondering. As my daily Bible reading brought me to this passage recently, I wondered what would have happened if Jesus had responded to the taunts by identifying his attackers. This story is the result.

Do we think we could do something that Jesus would not know about? We would never actually hit him like those men did. Or would we? We do things that equally offend his righteousness and holiness. Why do we ignore those “little sins?” As believers our hearts have been changed, leading us to have a desire to please our wonderful Lord. Let’s seek to live faithfully to that standard.

Jay Swisher



If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months we are glad you are joining with us! If you would like to learn more about New Life, be sure to stop by the Resource Center in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. Please join us for fellowship and meal after service today. We would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY:

### Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837  
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

### Coffee Ministry

Sandy Moe: 715.417.1812  
sandy.klj@hotmail.com

### Finance Administration

Bruce Gilliland (Treasurer): 715.338.2580  
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

### Greeting Card Ministry

Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426  
lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com

### GriefShare Ministry

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945  
robinmattson27@gmail.com

### Immerse Ministry

Ana Smith: 715.566.3740  
anajoy87@gmail.com

### Meal Train Relief Ministry

Kristin Stephan: 651.235.1681  
kristin@kageinnovation.com

### Music Ministry

Jeff Warren: 316.308.0833  
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

### Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661  
lrmilner@gmail.com

### Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453  
djholm@lakeland.ws

### Resource Center

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945  
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

### Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556  
bjdarnell@hotmail.com

### Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.220.6882  
behrden1@charter.net

### Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
jmabee@centurytel.net

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com	
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com	
Pastor Jeff Warren	316.308.0833
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com	
Cory Mattson – Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Matt Leko	651.465.3154
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

### This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Women's Precepts– 6:30-8 pm
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm
	(Adults & Youth meet separately)

### July Memory Verse:

Psalms 121:1-2 (ESV)

"I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

### July Fellowship Tip:

Are you an avid outdoor person? Next time you go fishing, hiking, running, gardening, etc. invite someone to join you and consider how you might spur them on in Christ.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

July 17	Team 1 ~ Pizza
July 24	No Meal
July 31	No Meal

Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

Check out New Life Online  
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Abortion Outreach:** Roe v Wade was overturned but abortion continues. Please join us in loving our precious preborn neighbors being led to their deaths **Saturday, July 23rd** at Robinsdale Clinic P.A. on W Broadway Ave open from **730am-12pm**. Contact Keith 763-286-2400.

Proverbs 24:10-12 (AMP/NASB1995) *"If you are slack in the day of distress, Your strength is limited. Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back. If you say, 'See, we did not know this,' Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts?"*

- **Baptism Service:** Our annual Baptism service is coming up in less than a month. Make sure to add **Sunday, August 7th** to your calendars. We will be gathering for service at the ARC retreat center. We want to begin this announcement early so that if the Lord is leading you to make a public declaration of Faith in the Lord Jesus and in His saving work, you have time to make that desire known by meeting with an elder or pastor beforehand. Please reach out! Once you have done this, make sure to jot your name down on the sign-up sheet on the welcome table.
- **Mid-year Annual Partner Meeting:** During our last annual partners meeting in January, the elders expressed their desire to meet as partners more than once per year with the primary purpose to celebrate Christ's work in and among us as well as joining together to pray. We're going to begin the habit of meeting more often this year by having a mid-year partner meeting. This will take place **Sunday, August 28th at 1pm**. If you are interested in learning more about partnership or how to become a partner please reach out to any of the elders



Do you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration? Please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: [lynnjimmelson@gmail.com](mailto:lynnjimmelson@gmail.com) or call her cell at 651-373-1426.



Today's Passage:  
Pastor Jeff's message is from the  
Old Testament book,  
**PSALM 4**

Sermon Notes: