

2018 FHUMC Winter Message Series: “At the Rail”

Series Lens: Using Peter's responses to Jesus as a way for us to respond to Jesus.

Series Theme Verse: “When you call me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12-13

Series Blurb: We begin the new year and our Sabbath Jubilee by rekindling our passionate spirituality. For six weeks starting Sun., Jan. 7, we are going back to our first Love, and recommitting ourselves and our church to our foundational relationship with Jesus. We will follow Peter's words to Jesus as he struggled to follow Him closely; we are much like Peter! Each Sunday during this series we will invite people to spend time at the altar prayer railing during worship to put their hearts with God's. We'll see you at the rail!

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018

Message #6: “You Know I Do!”

Theme: No matter how we have faltered, Jesus continues to call us in love for Him.

Scripture: John 21:15-19

Peter's Response: ““Yes Lord,’ he said, ‘you know that I love you.’” -John 21:15b, 16b, & 17b

Memory Verse: “When you call me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12-13

Skit: Peter and the Coffee Shop #6

Activity: People take a crossed-off commitment sheet from the prayer railing and rub it against a light bulb so the crossed off scribbles “erase.” Then, they write “reinstated” using permanent ink. Finally, they turn the card over and write down a commissioning they sense from God.

Blurb: Being given a second chance, being reinstated, and given additional responsibility: these mark true forgiveness and restored trust. Peter really messed up...big time! Yet Jesus offered him a second chance, reinstated him, and then gave him additional work. Jesus offers this all to you, as well. There is no failure that is too big for Jesus to forgive. Come this Sunday and experience His total forgiveness At the Rail.

Setup: Small commitment sheets from previous Sunday, scribbled with Frixion pens
Incandescent light bulb (that gets hot) on a stand, turned on, to “erase” the Frixion ink.
Permanent ink pens in the pews.

WORSHIP OUTLINE:

Opening Song: *That's Why We Praise Him* -Sanctify

Welcome: -Pastor David

Celebrating our Small Groups

85 participants. Over 80% of our worship attendance!

Comments: “It is so amazing to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to other people.”

“I joined two groups so I could hear other perspectives.”

“Although I attend, I really didn't feel connected to this church. But this group helped me make friends with new people. This is my church!”

“Every time we met, people shared such good insights.”
 “This really helped me take seriously my own daily walk for Jesus.”
 “We could be open and honest. I worked on my faith.”
 “It’s so good to hear other people have similar struggles.”
 “I’m so sad to have the group stop. I can’t wait for April!”

PP: Memory Verse: "When you call me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13

Memory Verse

Our memory verse has been the verse for our entire series, calling us to the rail.

Let’s try it together:

"When you call me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13

Serve Moment: Dulac Commissioning - Andrew

Skit: “The Fisherman in the Coffee Shop 6” (Andrew and Michael)

Offering: *I Will Be Found By You* -Sanctify

Bumper Video

Message Part #1: At the Rail: You Know I Do!

PP#1: At the Rail

You Know I Do!

“‘Yes Lord,’ Peter said, ‘you know that I love you.’” -John 21:15b, 16b, & 17b

At the Rail: You Know I Do! John 21:15b, 16, & 17b “‘Yes Lord,’ Peter said, ‘you know that I love you.’”

PP#2: *Image of a classic pencil.*

When I was in grade school, we used pencil, always. With all the mistakes we made, the key feature was the eraser. It made the pencil *the tool of the school*. The rubberized eraser would rub the graphite off the paper, and you could correct and start again. Indispensable feature!

PP#3: *Bic Cristal pens:* <http://graficaszar.com/26229-thickbox/bic-cristal.jpg>

But how we coveted the smooth, silky writing ability of ink pens! They wouldn’t smudge or smear if you dragged your palm across the paper. And how annoying to sharpen your pencil every few minutes. Only adults used pens! I remember sneakily trying to use pens, but I was always discovered when I had to cross out my mistakes and rewrite it. Bic Cristal pen case was the standard spit-wad weapon!

PP#4: *Retractable pens:* <http://www.elitepen.ru/news/news754.htm>

And then, in the 70s, they introduced the clickable, retractable pens. We could use the spring and mechanism to make launching tools! How we wanted to use pens. But the ink was permanent.

PP#5: *Typewriter eraser wheel:*

<http://www.erasersticks.com/ebrrerhard-faber-comet-1087-disc-eraser-with-brush-full.jpg>

Here's a flash from the past. Anyone remember these? In the 1950s there were these typewriter erasers. The eraser was not for removing the ink: it was rough and abrasive, to gently sand off the top layer of paper the ink was on. Office paper used to be thicker and high-rag content and could withstand the ink eraser. I remember using these: the key was not to rub a hole *through* the paper! The brush part was essential for wiping away the paper dust. These were replaced by white-out.

PP#6: <https://images.theexecutiveadvertising.com/productimages/manf/norwood/large/55040.jpg>

Then there was the pen with eraser, looking like a pencil. The key was the color of the eraser: pencil eraser, pink. Wiped away the graphite. Pen eraser: white. Wiped away the paper.

PP#7: <http://www.bizrate.com/pens/1079106046.html>

And then, in the early 1980s—I was in high school, and I remember this vividly—that most wonderful invention: the Erasermate erasable ink pen! It combined the smooth, classy ink writing with the erasable feature of pencils. We all *had* to have them. Teachers even started letting us turn in our work in pen! It was a revolution! The only problem is that the ink was a bit moody and could skip. To this day the regular ink pens still write better! And schools still want students using pencil.

PP#8: “Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no. Anything more than this comes from the evil one.” Matt. 5:37

You know, my problem is that I want to be a *pencil* Christian. I want the ease to just erase anything that I do wrong. I can haphazardly give it a try, and if I mess up, well, I erase it. I can let whatever I want come out of my mouth, and then I can just “take back” what’s hurtful or mean. Being a pencil Christian means I don’t have to be careful, thoughtful, intentional. I don’t have to improve. I can just keep doing what I want.

The Bible, however, says that God wants us to be permanent-ink pen Christians. The Christian pattern is that God wants us to do what is right, the first time. And we are to grow into that, so we do it more and more. Yes, we make mistakes. We sin. But God has created a way of forgiveness for us. It doesn’t come from us, and what we do, being erasable and easily changed. God wants us to be fully committed, permanent. But He has worked a miracle to erase our permanent ink.

God wants us to be pen Christians! He wants what we say and do to be lasting, and worthy of lasting. He wants us to strive to get it right the first time, and not need to be erased, and not be smudging when hardship comes. Jesus wants strong, reliable followers.

PP#9: *Image of Peter by the fire denying Jesus.*

Last we met Peter, he was denying Jesus. Now, he had started out thinking he was permanent ink. But in fact, we see he was writing in pencil. He claimed he would never deny Jesus. Yet that very night, he denied Jesus three times.

Jesus was then crucified and buried. On Easter, two days later, Jesus rose from the dead! He appeared to all the disciples that night, and again the following Sunday. The disciples then leave Jerusalem and return to Galilee, where Peter and the others go back to fishing.

After a long night of catching nothing, again along comes Jesus, and again tells them to put their nets out the other side of the boat. They do, and again there is a miraculous catch of fish! Just like when Jesus first called Peter!

PP#10: *Image of the disciples eating fish breakfast with the risen Jesus.*

This time Jesus tells them to bring some of the fish to the fire, and they cook it for breakfast. They sit down to eat. You know, that must have been a very awkward breakfast. Not only is it mind-blowing that Jesus was raised from the dead, they all also knew what had happened since last they talked. Each and every one of them had denied Jesus! I imagine the breakfast was pretty silent.

How they must wanted to ask Jesus so many things, but were scared to talk to Him because they knew that He knew their betrayal. Peter, normally the bold and first to speak, is particularly quiet! Then, in the awkward silence, Jesus turns directly to Peter, looks him straight in the eye, and speaks.

PP#11: John 21:15-19 (CEB)

15 When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 Jesus asked a second time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.” 17 He asked a third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

John 21, starting with verse 15. “When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’

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PP#12: John 21:15-19 (CEB)

Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, “Do you love me?” He replied, “Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. 18 I assure you that when you were younger you tied your own belt and walked around wherever you wanted. When you grow old, you will

stretch out your hands and another will tie your belt and lead you where you don't want to go." 19 He said this to show the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. After saying this, Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me."

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PP#13: "You Know I Do" - Forgiveness!

1. Jesus seeks Peter out

What's going on in this story is, Jesus is taking the forgiveness He won by dying on the cross, and applies it to Peter, who stands in failure and judgement. We see in Peter an example of how Jesus' forgiveness works. We need to listen up, because last week we all admitted that we deny Jesus and compromise our commitment to Him. We all need His forgiveness!

First move: Jesus seeks Peter out. Peter is convicted and ashamed. He doesn't feel like he dare approach Jesus. But Jesus comes to him and seeks him out. Jesus starts the conversation and brings the restoring forgiveness.

Jesus isn't mad. Jesus doesn't condemn. Jesus doesn't give up on Peter. In fact, Jesus seeks Him out in order to offer forgiveness. Isn't that amazing? Church, do you hear this? Jesus seeks you out when you sin and offers forgiveness! Even when you sin, Jesus still wants you! Your value and acceptance to Jesus isn't dependent on your work, or how successfully you do what He wants. It's not you getting it right. You don't have to be perfection for Jesus to want you. He has the forgiveness to fix you!

Jesus knew from the beginning that Peter would deny Him. Yet He still chose Peter! Jesus knows your failure and denial. And Jesus still chooses you! And remember, long before, Jesus even called him "Rock!" Rock? Jesus, you see, was seeing him not just as he was, but as he was going to be. Jesus sees you not just as you are, but as He is making you to be.

Forgiveness begins with Jesus' first move. He seeks you out and offers forgiveness.

PP#14: "You Know I Do" - Forgiveness!

1. Jesus seeks Peter out

2. Jesus gives Peter a second chance

Three times Peter had denied Jesus. Now, three times Jesus asks Peter to publically confess his love for Jesus. Jesus gives Peter another "go" at it! He gives him a second chance. Peter now gets the chance to do it right. Peter has a different memory now fill his mind, a memory of declaring love for Jesus.

Jesus gives us a chance to do things right. He lets us try again. This is part of the forgiveness He offers. Our witness continues! When we screw up in our commitment to Jesus—particularly to other people—you will notice, that before long you will have another chance to try it again. He will send someone else, or perhaps even the same person, and give you another opportunity. This time,

you may have the guts to talk about Jesus. This time you may offer to pray out loud for them. This time you may be bold for Jesus.

PP#15: *The commitment cards from last week with “Deny” and words crossed out.*

We’re going to stop here a minute to enact the forgiveness that Jesus offers. We’ll come back to the message—Part 2!—in a minute.

Last week, we enacted how we are all like Peter and the first disciples in that we deny Jesus. Even though we may make a strong commitment to follow Jesus, each of us have found ways of denying Jesus, and renege on our commitment. We enacted this by taking our commitment cards that say “I commit to following Jesus” and writing deny on them, and then crossing out the words.

We then came up to the prayer railing and admitted our sin, and when we did, we left the cards at the rail.

Jesus came to Peter and asked him, “Do you love me?” Peter said, three times, “You know I do!” Today we are going to make Peter’s response ours, too. Today I’m going to give you the chance to act out Jesus’ forgiveness for you.

We’ve collected the commitment cards and have them in baskets at the prayer railing. In a moment, I am going to invite you to come up, and as you come to the prayer rail, say, “Thank you Jesus for your forgiveness.” Then take one of the cards—it doesn’t matter which one, just pick any one—and walk it over to one of the four lamps around the sanctuary.

Jesus is our light, and He illumines our sin. As you go to the light, use it to look at the denial. But I want you to know that Jesus offers you forgiveness, when you join with Him. So then I want you to rub the back of your paper against the light bulb. As you do, say, “You know, Lord, that I love you!”

PP#16: *The commitment cards WITHOUT “Deny” and words crossed out.*

Now, be careful as the bulb is hot. That’s the science. Remember I made you use the special pens last week? This is why. Rub the paper against the bulb, and watch as your denial disappears! The word “deny” and the crossing-out will fade, and the bold commitment to follow Jesus will remain.

I invite you into this journey of forgiveness. As there is room, come up, say “thank you” to Jesus for His forgiveness, take a commitment card, go over to one of the four lamps, say “You know, Lord, that I love you,” and rub the paper against the bulb, and then keep the erased card with you as you go back to your seat. Hang on to it there.

Jesus offers you forgiveness. I pray you will feel it personally, *for you*, as you enact this prayer. Andrew and Sanctify will come first, and then lead us in singing as the rest of us come.

Response: Forgiven and Reinstated!

Worship Set: - Sanctify

Reckless Love

Forever Reign

Message Part #2: At the Rail: You Know I Do!

PP#17: *The commitment cards WITHOUT "Deny" and words crossed out.*

The science is that the pens we used last week has ink that fades in heat. That's why they're called "Frixion" pens. Their "erasers" rub the paper, and the heat of the friction makes the ink fade.

Jesus' forgiveness is even better. Jesus' forgiveness erases *permanent* ink. Jesus wants us to be permanent pen Christians—not erasable!—and be reliable and lasting in our commitment to Jesus. Yet when we mess up, Jesus offers us the miracle of forgiveness!

When Jesus' forgives Peter—and the others—it REINSTATED them as committed followers of Jesus. And once they were given the Holy Spirit, they all persevered to the end.

Jesus reinstates you, too! This is what His forgiveness does for you!

PP#18: *The commitment card with "REINSTATED" written across the edge of it.*

I want you to take the permanent ink pens that are in the pews, and write "REINSTATED" across the edge of your commitment card. Be sure to use the permanent ink pens, because this reinstatement is permanent! You cannot erase it, even if you need forgiveness from time to time. Your identity is a fully reinstated follower of Jesus! Claim it, and write it down!

PP#19: "You Know I Do" - Forgiveness!

1. Jesus seeks Peter out
2. Jesus gives Peter a second chance
3. Jesus gives Peter more work to do

Forgiveness: 1. Jesus seeks Peter out. 2. He gives Peter a second chance. And did you notice that in each of the three times, 3. He gives Peter work to do in God's Kingdom. He charges Peter, "Feed my sheep." Jesus entrusted Peter with a larger assignment. Peter was to become the rock as he used his bold speaking from then on, to witness for Jesus. Yes, his death would be martyrdom. Even in that, Jesus allowed Peter to fulfill his pledge to die for Jesus! But once again, like Jesus did when He first called Peter by that shore after a miraculous catch of fish, Jesus invites Peter, "Follow me."

Jesus invites the same to you, today, again, too. Jesus says to you "follow me." That means receiving Jesus' forgiveness. It means living in the permanent commitment made possible by the Holy Spirit. And it means doing the work for God's Kingdom here on earth that Jesus is calling you to do. Peter was a leader among the disciples, a shepherd, a pastor. That was His calling. Jesus also calls you to work for God. How will you feed God's sheep?

PP#20: What work is Jesus calling you to?

I'm going to call us to a response time again. I'm going to open the prayer railings and invite you, if you want, to come down to the railing and ask Jesus how He wants you to feed His sheep. What has Jesus laid upon your heart? What are your passions? What do you love to do? What do you love? What do you notice in our world? What bothers you over and over again? What is a concern that others say you are passionate about? These all are indicators of the work Jesus is calling you to do. He has given you passions and concerns, abilities and giftings. What does your heart break for? What energizes you when you do it? What might all this be saying that God is calling you to do? Ask Jesus. Listen. Spend a few moments in prayer.

Again, you can come to the prayer railing, or you can pray in your seats if you want. Listen to what God is speaking into your heart.

Then, when you get back to your seat, turn your commitment card over, and write down what Jesus may be saying to you, what work He is asking you to do for His sheep.

If you are confused, or need clarity, put your hands palm up, and a person from the prayer team will come and pray with you. It may not be fully clear right now, but ask Jesus to give you some indication.

You are forgiven. You are reinstated. You are called! Let's pray.

Prayer at the Rail

Members of the prayer team are ready to pray with people who ask for it.

Worship Set #2: - Sanctify

Sweet Hour of Prayer

PP21: Cassi's prayer card:

FHUMC Lenten "Cross" Prayer

Come: Pour out your Holy Spirit on your church.

Renew: Awaken in us a hunger for more of You.

Oneness: Bind us together to the work God is calling us to.

Stretch: Push us into boldness.

Send: Give us your heart for the lost.

Praying together for our church:

Pray this prayer at least once a day during Lent.

When you see a cross, stop for a moment and pray for our church.

Lenten Prayer

Part of the work that Jesus gives each of us to do is to pray for our church.

Also, commit to praying our Lenten Prayer for our church, as we HCI pause.

We're calling it the Lenten Cross prayer because we are following Jesus to the cross!

You will get prayer cards this Wednesday, at Ash Wednesday service (6:15 p.m.)

Pray together: FHUMC Lenten "Cross" Prayer

We also are given the work to take our freedom in Jesus wherever we go...

Closing Song: *We Are Free* - Sanctify

PP: Memory Verse

Memory Verse: "When you call me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13

Announcements:

Ash Wednesday: Wed., Feb. 14 at 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship, with burning of the palms. Small groups will start in the Ash Wednesday worship and finish in small groups from 6:45 - 7:30 p.m.

Community Care weekend

Next Sunday: Andrew preaches!

Benediction: -Pastor David