

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—
Wednesday—16
Contribution—\$1470

For meditation:
Proverbs 28.22–24
What is an evil
eye? How can
having an evil
eye lead cause a
man to rob his
father and moth-
er?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

The effectiveness of a satisfied customer

In a famous passage in *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis, talks about hesitating to tell his mother when he had a toothache. He knew that if he did, his mother would take him to the dentist. “And I knew those dentists; I knew they started fiddling about with all sorts of other teeth which had not yet begun to ache. They would not let sleeping dogs lie; if you gave them an inch they took a mile.”

There’s a good chance the Gadarenes asked Jesus to leave (Lk. 8.37) because they feared His “fiddling about.” We want to be saved from toothache-type sins, but we don’t want Christ fiddling with the sins we enjoy. Asked to leave, Christ left, but not before making a strategic move.

The man cleansed of the demons “begged [Christ] that he might be with Him,” but Jesus told him to “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you” (Lk. 8.37-38). The man did so (v 39), and the result was that when Christ next visited the region, “great multitudes came to Him” (Matt. 15.30). They marveled when they saw what He did, and they “glorified the God of Israel.” Jesus left, the man remained, and his testimony was ungetoverable. It was his testimony that prepared the way for Christ’s return.

Marketers say the most effective advertising is word-of-mouth from a satisfied customer, and any class on personal evangelism, based on the Gadarene demoniac, ought to emphasize this element. Shouldn’t our lives be so reflective of Christ’s contact with us that men will want to hear our story (1 Pet. 3.15)?

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

The siege ramp at Masada (red arrow)
Outline of a Roman camp is visible lower right.
Dead Sea can be seen in the background.



Sermon: 1 Peter 5.8

The Devil

21 January 2024

A measly two mites

“This poor widow has put in more than all.”

“An acorn,” said Boreham, “is a wonderful thing; it is a pocket edition of a forest.” It’s certainly true that mighty oaks from little acorns grow, and it’s also true that a mighty message can come from a widow’s two mites.

Edersheim said that ringing the Court of Women in the Temple were thirteen trumpet-shaped receptacles called *shopheroth* (trumpets) that were for the receiving of religious and charitable contributions. As Jesus watched men toss in their money, He saw something no one else saw. I don’t mean that He saw **one** (underscoring the lady’s loneliness) **poor** (the Gr. word for pauper) **woman** toss in two **mites** (I’ve read it would take ten mites to equal one English penny).



All these things could have been seen by others. What Jesus alone saw and “lifted into the light of centuries” (Morgan), was that the widow had “put in more than all those who had given to the treasury” (12.43). Monetarily she hadn’t put in more (v 41, “many who were rich put in much”), but in profound ways, this lonely widow, who probably tried to hide from everyone else the measly amount she contributed, put any more than everybody else that day. What did the Lord see that we need to see?

He saw faith. If she cast in all, how would she buy groceries, pay the utilities, clothe herself? We’re not told, but I’d be willing to bet she wasn’t worried about what she’d eat, drink, or wear because she trusted in a heavenly Father who knew what she needed and care for her. Accordingly, she’d worry about tomorrow when tomorrow came (Matt. 6.32–34).

He saw hope. Faith gives a focus that gives courage and endurance (Heb. 11.1,3,6,7,13, etc.). Hope saved her from despair (that couldn’t have been much worse; Rom. 8.24). She could endure because she saw Him who is invisible (Heb. 11.27).

He saw love. “Love God, love your neighbor” said Jesus (12.29–31). No one, I don’t think, doubts her love for God. But her neighbor? According to Edersheim (II, 387), some of the money contributed to the treasury was given to the poor. A woman among the poorest of the poor had love for her fellows.

Faith, hope, and love, which the Lord looks for in every man, were present in this woman. She is one we shouldn’t forget.

kenny

Herodian Masada, 10

Rome prepared for the taking of Masada with the deliberateness with which the Allies prepared for the invasion of Normandy.

Around the base of Masada, eight Roman camps were built. So well preserved are they even today, from the top of Masada, they are easily seen.

In these camps (two large ones, six smaller ones) lived the Roman legionaries and the auxiliary/mercenary troops. Between the camps lived thousands of Jewish prisoners of war who were forced to assist the Romans in the taking of Masada. The total number of legionaries, auxiliaries, and POWs came to about 15,000 people.

Each camp was set out in the form of a square and had streets laid out within it. Along the streets the tents of the Roman soldiers were set up on foundations of stone. Eight or nine men lived in each tent. They slept on stone benches, ate their meals on these benches, and cooked their meals on outdoor fireplaces.

In the center of each camp was the command post where the commander and his staff would meet. The largest of the camps, situated on the west side of Masada, was the headquarters of General Silva, and it was there that he decided on the best way to take Masada. The assault would be by arrow, stone, battering ram, spear, sword, and fire. But before the attack could begin, the soldiers had to be able to reach the fortress atop Masada. To accomplish this, Silva followed Vespasian’s example at Jotapata and ordered the building of a siege ramp.

The thousands of Roman soldiers and prisoners of war were put to work. The hauled earth, stones, and wood to the west side of Masada and began pounding it into a massive ramp. When finished, the Romans planned to build a tall siege tower atop the ramp with a mighty battering ram. The moment the wall was broken through, Roman soldiers would swarm up the ramp, through the breach, and into the citadel. While the ramp rose up the side of Masada, other soldiers were engaged in building catapults to hurl darts, stones, and pots of fire into the citadel.

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News about us

- We’re grateful we’ve all survived the extreme cold.
- There’s no new news, but prayers should continue to be offered for our old news involving our various members dealing with assorted health issues.