

Ministers:
the congregation

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

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

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

This Past Week:
Worship—24
Wednesday—15
Contribution—\$950

For meditation:
Proverbs 28.19–212
The love of money is the theme of these verses. Which verse shows that: (1) avarice is contrary to faithfulness, (2) practices partiality, and (3) doesn't achieve what it seeks.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

“Get out”

Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart. Luke 8.37

When in Israel last March, there were places where I could see nearly the entire eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, and I wondered, where did the incident with the Gadarene demoniac occur? It's an incredible story.

A DERANGED MAN

A legion of demons lived in a man. You'd think one demon would be enough to ruin your life, but to have a legion tearing you up—was any individual Christ encountered more tortured than this poor man? The local demon-busters were powerless to help him; nothing they did helped.

A DISTURBED COMMUNITY

All it takes to disrupt a community is one devil-controlled, unhinged lunatic full of hate (Mk. 5.3–5), and a community's common weal can be changed forever.

A DISGRACEFUL REQUEST

Christ did what men couldn't; He restored the man to his sanity (8.35). But some bacon was lost in the process (8.33), and how did the community react? By praising God from whom all blessings flow? No, by telling Him to get out. The same has been done in this country. We've told Christ to get out of our schools (no prayer), out of our government (an effigy of the devil in the Iowa state capitol is okay, but you'd better not post a copy of the Ten Commandments), and we've gone WOKE, that is, pagan, and told Him to get out of our business. The result? Among other things, presidents of prestigious universities who won't condemn genocide but will defend plagiarism.

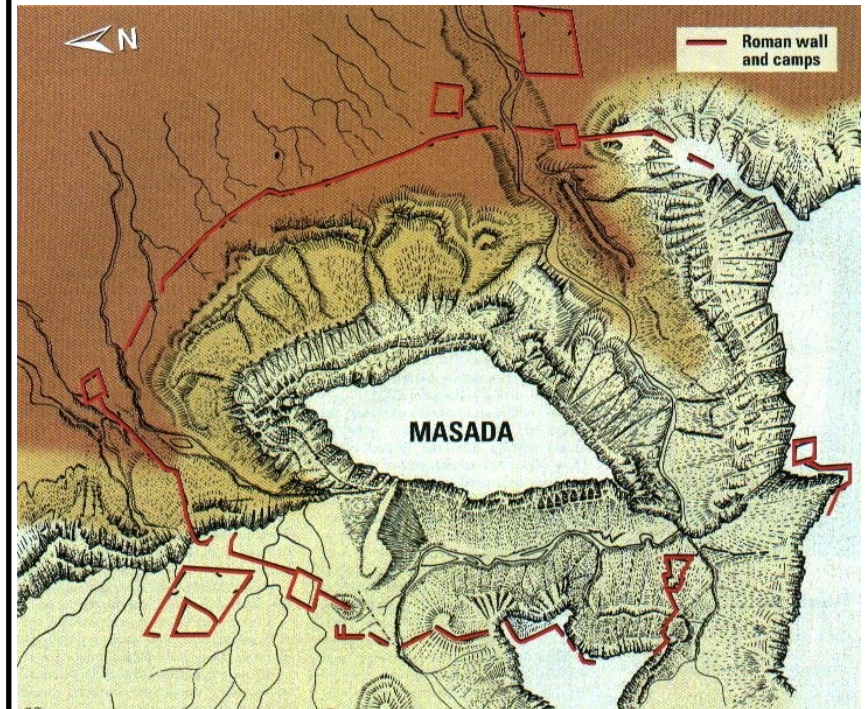
When Christ is told to leave, what then? We'll take a look at that next article.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

Map showing the wall (red line) constructed by the Tenth Roman Legion around the Fortress of Masada.



Sermon: 1 Peter 5.8

Peter's answer for anxiety

7 January 2024

If we miss this, we've missed it all

“Which is the first commandment of all?”

This is the only time in Mark's Gospel where a scribe has a positive attitude toward Jesus; not every orthodox Jew of the time rejected Christ. Prominent rabbis were often asked the question the scribe put to Jesus. To be able to succinctly state the highest priority of the Law was honored as a mark of rabbinic expertise.

In answer, Christ quotes a passage from Deuteronomy 6 (which every adult Jewish male was expected to recite daily) and from Leviticus 19—two passages that are alike in that they each contain the exhortation, “you shall love.” “What does the Lord require of us?” (Mic. 6.8). The pagans thought they owed their gods fear, sacrifices (Ps. 51.15, Isa. 1.11), payoffs (6.7), etc. but, according to Moses, the homage God wants from us is *love*.

Some random thoughts.

The first part of Christ's answer (v 30) is qualified by the second part (v 31). We cannot love God unless we love our fellows, as the Apostle John explains in 1 John 4.7–21.

There are greater and lesser commandments (e.g., Matt. 5.19); while we can't keep the greater commandments without keeping the lesser, keeping the lesser doesn't mean we are keeping the greater (Matt. 23.23). A body can render superficial obedience, even as the heart is in engaged in open rebellion (Amos 8.5).

Love encompasses the entire personality, the total man loving God totally—with *all* our heart, *all* our soul, *all* our mind, and *all* our soul. This statement forever demolishes legalism, the heresy that we can earn God's approval. Is anyone so delusional as to think there is ever a moment when his/her *whole* being *wholly* loves God? Loving God 75 percent with the mind isn't loving Him with all the mind; loving God with 38 percent of our strength isn't loving Him with all our strength, etc. There's never a moment when we don't stand in need of grace. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy [not our merit] He saved us” (Tit. 3.5).

When someone asks me what they should ask a man “trying out” for preacher, I tell them to ask what Jesus asked Peter: “Do you love Me?” Isn't this the most important question?

kenny

Herodian Masada, 9

In AD 66 Jewish zealots began the rebellion against Rome, and even though Jerusalem had fallen, the Temple was gone, and Roman troops had a stranglehold on the country, they refused to give up. Zealots had overpowered the Roman garrison at Masada, and from here they meant to continue the fight. Unafraid of death, they dedicated themselves to ridding the land of Romans, and from their base atop Masada, they regularly launched raids against their enemy.

The Zealots were led by Eleazer Ben Yair, who had fought against, and escaped from, the Romans at Jerusalem. The entire group of Jewish survivors—including men, women, and children—numbered less than a thousand. Most of them lived in the space between the double walls that ringed the flat area atop Masada. This space was divided into about a hundred rooms, fourteen feet wide but of varying lengths. It took over a year for the archaeological team to excavate the double walls and their casement rooms, but once it was done, experts were able to reconstruct the life of the Zealot families on Masada.

Meals were cooked on open fires or crude stoves made of mud. The diet consisted of nuts, dates, olives, pomegranates, figs, grain, and salt. There seems to have always been enough food for everyone, and archaeologists found many pottery shards with inscriptions indicating they had been used as ration coupons.

Five years after the siege of Jotapata (AD 67), the Romans lay siege to Masada. The Roman procurator of Judea by this time was Flavius Silva, and he took personal charge of the siege. “Now that the entire land had been conquered except for this single fortress,” wrote Josephus, “Silva brought together all the troops under his command and marched against it. . . . To keep the defenders from escaping, he built a wall all around the fortress, and he posted sentries along it” (*Wars* VII.8.5).

The Masada Archaeological Expedition found the remains of Silva's wall, six feet thick, two miles long. It effectively sealed the Jews in, ensuring none of them would escape their doom.

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News about us

- Jordan is suffering through an episode of Bell's Palsy. She's a brave girl; keep her in your prayers.
- We weep with Grant in the loss of his cousin, and with Lisa in the loss of her sister, Chris, this past week.