

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
217.493.8905

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—40
Wednesday—18
Contribution—\$1866

For meditation:
Proverbs 28.4–5
To what does evil
blind men? What
is the stance of
the good to the
wicked to be?
How is this ac-
complished?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Herodian Masada, 2 continued

revealed, the archaeologists determined this level, like the lower one, was also meant as a place of leisure. A double row of stone pillars held up a round roof, providing a shady pavilion where Herod could sit, eat, relax, and enjoy a spectacular view.

On the topmost level, the upper terrace, Herod built an elaborate, three-tiered palace. At the very edge of the precipice, the engineers found a semicircular porch that offered breathtaking views to the north, east, and west. Behind the porch were found four dwelling chambers designed for ordinary living. The floors, walls, and ceilings were covered with decorations; archaeologists found fragments of painted plaster and mosaic floors with artistically arranged patterns made with small chips of black, white, and colored stone. These floors are among the oldest mosaics ever discovered in the region.

Behind this palace, buried under piles of rubble, was found “the white wall”—a wall covered with white plaster and still in fine condition after two thousand years. At the eastern end of the wall, the diggers discovered a narrow entrance, beside which was a small stone bench. This seems to have been the only access to the palace area, and the bench was probably the place where an armed guard was stationed to keep unwanted visitors out.

It is speculated that Herod put this three-level palace on the north side of Masada because it is the only side sheltered for most of the daylight hours from the sun and searing south wind.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

Masada “fort”



Masada, looking from the northwest to the southeast. The Dead Sea can be seen in the distance. Visible on the northern crest are the three huge steps/terraces on which Herod built a “hanging” palace.

Sermon: 1 Peter 4.1–6

What Simon says about sanctification

19 November 2023

“And covetousness, which is idolatry”

“One came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?’” (10.17). This wasn’t the first time Christ had been asked this question.

A few months earlier, a scribe asked, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Lk. 10.25), and Christ answered with the parable of the Good Samaritan. David Smith speculated that the young man in Mark 10 may have been the ruler of the synagogue where the discussion of Luke 10 occurred, and it was the Luke 10 discussion that prompted the encounter in Mark 10. Smith described the man in Mark 10 as a Pharisee “styled the ‘Let-me-know-what-is-my-duty-and-I-will-do-it’ Pharisee” (*The Days of His Flesh*, 359). Despite being blameless concerning the righteousness which is in the Law (10.19–20; Phil. 3.6), the man had no rest. He had done everything, so he thought, but he knew something was still missing.

To reveal to him what was missing, the Lord asks a question and gives a command.

Why do you call Me good? (v 18). More than a question, these words were a challenge to the ruler to consider the implications of what he had said. Jesus laid claim to deity, to being God. If He wasn’t who He claimed to be, if He was lying or deluded, He certainly didn’t deserve the adjective “good.” But if He was truly good, He was God, the One to be worshipped and obeyed. By conjuring up the implications of his statement, Christ was asking, “Now, do you still want to call Me ‘good’?”

If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor . . . and come and follow Me (v 21). The command to sell all and give to the poor was not meant to be one more rule to follow. Jesus didn’t always require that everything be sold and given to the poor (14.3–9), nor that one had to leave all to follow Him (5.18–19). Rather, for *this* man at *this* time, Jesus demanded what He did in order to expose the man to himself. For in truth, he was an idolator who loved gold more than God (v 22). This man may have kept commandments five through ten, but he grossly violated the one that headed the list.

Many would welcome a Christianity on easier terms, but Christ’s demand for the whole heart is categorical. What must I do to inherit eternal life? If we reject Christ’s answer, to whom shall we go, for He alone has the words of eternal life (Jn. 6.68).

kenny

Herodian Masada, 2

About thirty years before Christ was born, Herod the Great fortified a towering rock approximately sixty-five miles southeast of Jerusalem, on the western side of the Dead Sea, known as Masada.

Herod was an Edomite who had been given rule over the Jews by the Romans. The Romans referred to him as a *client-king*—a puppet. In return for installing him as king, they received much wealth from Herod, which he taxed from his Jewish subjects. Many Jews loathed him, and there were enemies he feared outside Judea (such as Cleopatra, queen of Egypt). Should the time ever come when his foes, foreign or domestic, attacked him, Herod would have taken refuge in his fortress atop Masada.

On three huge steps/terraces at the northern end of the rock, Herod built a palace. The lowest terrace, perched on a vertical cliff more than a thousand feet above the floor of the desert, is only a few yards wide. The room Herod built there was meant as a place of leisure where he could enjoy magnificent views of the area. When the dirt and debris were removed, the entire original floor was uncovered, and the lower parts of the original walls were found still standing, along with remnants of stone pillars. Just as Josephus described (*Wars of the Jews*, Book VIII), the walls were painted (stone and plaster were painted to resemble marble, a style popular throughout the Roman empire at the time), and a hidden passage Josephus mentioned, cut into the rock, was found. It led from the bottom terrace to the top of the mountain, a climb of 100 feet. Also on the lowest terrace was found the remains of an opulent bathhouse, containing every imaginable luxury for bathing and relaxing, including a cold-water pool, a warm room, a steam room, and an elaborate system for heating the air—what we would call today a Turkish bath.

On the middle terrace, which is forty feet higher than the bottom terrace, was uncovered the remnants of a circular structure. This area was buried under large rocks that had fallen from above. When these were removed and the original floor

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News about us

- Sadly, we learned this past week that Alberta had passed. Her body has been donated to science, and then her ashes will be scattered by the family.