

Ministers:  
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley  
217.493.8905

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—33  
Wednesday—12  
Contribution—\$530

**For meditation:**  
**Proverbs 28.4–6**  
For any class to  
oppress the poor  
is a great evil.  
The poverty level  
is a divine ordi-  
nation—"the  
poor shall not  
cease out of the  
land"—meant to  
awaken compas-  
sion and benevo-  
lence. What sur-  
prises us when  
it's the poor who  
oppress the poor?

**Radio program:**  
WGCY FM, 106.3  
Sundays at 8 AM

## Trauma

I once overheard mom telling someone that early in her and dad's marriage, there would be times she would awaken in the middle of the night and find the bed wet with sweat because dad was having a nightmare. Dad saw some heavy fighting during WW II. He never talked about it, but he had PTSD—post-traumatic stress disorder.

PTSD is when your mind and emotions continue to defend themselves against a danger from your past; in remembering it, you relive it and react much as you did at the time of the incident. Battle, abuse, molestation, neglect, loss, etc. cause trauma, which transliterates the Gr. word for "wound." The only place it occurs in the NT is in Luke 10.34, where we read about a good Samaritan who doctored a man's "wounds"/lit., trauma. Not just the body, but the mind and heart can be traumatized.

Believing the Great Physician can treat those suffering from various *torments* (Matt. 4.24), I would encourage the traumatized to study the life of Joseph (Gen. 37ff). Joseph was terribly wounded by his brothers. Coming to grips with what they did took time, but eventually he put the matter behind him. How? The answer, I believe, is found in the name he gave his first child: Mannaseh/to forget (Gen. 41.51). Joseph was able to forget what happened; not in an amnesia sort of way, but in a practical way. ***Practical forgetting is refusing to remember.*** When a bad memory is recalled, replace it with a good thought (put off/put on, Eph. 4.22,24; Phil. 4.8). Do this religiously, and before long the bad memory will fade from memory and cease to torment your soul.

By forgetting, life can again be Ephraim/fruitful/blessed (Gen. 41.52).

kenny

# Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

**The original mosaic tile floor in the  
bathhouse of the Herodium—Herod's  
Western Palace atop Masada.**



Sermon: 1 Peter 4.7–11

Getting ready for the end of all things

26 November 2023

## *Jesus stood still*

The healing of Bartimaeus is unique in several ways. It's the only miracle where the beneficiary is named; it's the only story where Jesus is called "the Son of David"; and it's the only story where the one healed followed Jesus. The miracle serves as the climax of Christ's healing ministry in the Gospel of Mark.

Bartimaeus was a professional beggar who was good at what he did. He knew what time it was—namely, the Passover when large crowds would be traveling to Jerusalem. He knew where to sit—by the side of the road most pilgrims would be using. And he knew about Jesus, which is evident from the fact that when he heard Jesus was passing by, he saw an opportunity and cried out. He also knew Isaiah said the messiah would restore sight to the blind (61.1).

The story of Bartimaeus is one of intersecting orbits, as in a Venn diagram. In one orbit is a man with a desperate need; in the other is One who could meet his need. For a brief moment on the Jericho road, their paths crossed and the man's life changed forever. What does this story tell us about the Lord?

**Jesus stood still (v 49)**, which is to say, He had time for the blind man. Think about all that had to be in Christ's mind: the incident that just happened involving James and John (10.35–45), the clamor of His Galilean supporters, and the cross that awaited in Jerusalem. And yet, a plea stopped Jesus in His tracks. Let that sink in—despite all the distractions, when Bartimaeus shouted, Jesus stood still.

When you pray, do you sense that the Lord is listening to you as if there's no one else in the world? That's the way it is when Christ hears a cry for help. When His children pray, they have the Lord's undivided, undistracted, exclusive attention.

In Luke 18, the chapter that ends with Bartimaeus's healing opens with Jesus urging men "always to pray and not lose heart" (18.1). Jesus wants us to pray; He loves us to bring our need to Him. He loves to bless His children.

"Sow still the seeds of prayer on the heart of God, for in it there is no hard, nor any stony, nor any t horny ground, but it is all good soil, which will yield an h undredfold to the seed of prayer we sow on it" (Glover, *A teacher's commentary on the gospel of St. Mark*, 199).

kenny

## *Herodian Masada, 3*

One spot atop Masada where I now wish I had spent more time was the Western Palace. The hanging palace I described in the last article seems to get all the attention, but it was not the place where Herod sat on his throne and held court in pomp and splendor. That place was located on the west side of Masada and was the largest structure on the mountain.

The Western palace—also known as, the Herodium—had been a tall building; when its walls collapsed, they left a huge pile of stone and rubble covering a wide area. Clearing this away was an enormous undertaking for the volunteers; cranes were needed to lift the larger stones. But finally, once excavated, the floor plan of the original building was easily seen. The place had, indeed, been a royal palace.

Luck stepped in. The very first room unearthed turned out to be Herod's throne room. Four depressions in the floor showed where the throne probably stood. Hundreds of pieces of broken vessels made of bronze or ivory—just the sort of valuable objects found in a palace—were strewn about. Everything uncovered gave indication of a rich, opulent building.

The palace kitchens, where servants had once prepared meals and banquets, were found. Clay ovens were uncovered, each able to keep ten or twelve pots cooking at a time. Special storerooms were found where special, costly foods and delicacies were kept; thousands of jars were uncovered in this area. Also found were smaller jars that had held creams and oils.

Probably the greatest find in the Western Palace was a large section of the original floor, a mosaic, that was still intact. The geometric designs and themes were of olive branches, fig leaves, grapevines, and pomegranates.

Some of the very best photographs I have come across of Masada, including the ruins of the Western Palace and it's mosaic floor can be found here: <https://followinghadrianphotography.com/2016/06/29/masada/>.

**NEXT: WHERE DID MASADA'S WATER COME FROM?**  
kenny

## *News about us*

- About everyone in the congregation has been hit with the crud, but most of us are on the upswing. Let's continue to pray for us all.