

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—32
Wednesday—10
Contribution—\$1100

For meditation:
Proverbs 24.30–34
Here is the greatest indictment of laziness found in Scripture. Notice that it is foolish, procrastinating, and ruinous.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Edom and the Rape of Judah

**“you stood there and didn’t do anything”
Obadiah 10**

In 1964, Kitty Genovese was raped and murdered outside her New York City apartment. Many who heard or saw the crime, did nothing about it! Since then, psychologists have labeled such noninvolvement *the bystander effect*. This was the charge God leveled against Edom in Obadiah 10.

According to Amos 1.10, Edom was guilty of many things. Without pity he hunted his brother to murder him, had a relentless anger, and was mean. But possibly the worst thing Edom did was that when Judah was invaded by enemies who ravaged and raped the people and land, Edom didn’t lift a finger to help his brother (Obad. 11). According to God, that kind of noninvolvement is violence! When we fail to speak up for a brother who needs our support, when we neglect to lend a hand (Jas. 2.14–16) or show compassion (even when he deserves none) when he is hurting, we have sinned against love—a terrible sin indeed.

In L. Helman’s 1944 play, *The Sheltering Wind*, Alex Haven, an American diplomat in Europe, despises the pacifists, many within his own social circle, who coddled the Nazis and Fascists during the interwar years. During the interwar years, however, Alex was cheating on his wife with his wife’s best friend. Near the end of the play, his wife, who knew what was going on, tells him, “If it makes you feel better to make fun of those people [pacifists], then do it. *But don’t tell yourself that having contempt for them puts you on the opposite side.*” Alex, you’re as bad as those you despise. Just because we hate what God hates doesn’t mean we love what He loves. That was the sin of Edom.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



Sermon: Joshua 1.1–7

Moses is dead, now get going

26 February 2023

An Uzzah touch

“Their action is an Uzzah’s touch to the ark of God, which needed no steadying from them,” is how Glover described the scene in Mark 3.31–35 (*A Teacher’s Commentary on the Gospel of St. Mark*, 55). His description fits perfectly.

In Mark 3.21, news of an incident involving Jesus reaches Nazareth, and His family concludes He is “out of His mind.” Honest people can do foolish things, and deciding an intervention was needed, Mary and her other sons travel to Capernaum to save Jesus from Himself. When they arrive, they find Him surrounded by crowd, and they send someone to tell Him they were there, no doubt believing He would stop everything and come out to see them. Instead, Christ used the occasion as a teaching moment: “Who is my mother, or my brothers?” (v 33). Looking at those surrounding Him, Christ said, “Here are my mother and my brothers” (v 34). If Mary heard this, it was likely one of the times a sword pierced through her soul (Lk. 2.35).

What Christ’s family sought to do was presumptuous. It was a time when Mary should have left Jesus’ care to His heavenly Father. The sacred ark wasn’t tottering; Jesus didn’t need their steadying hand. Christ’s family needed to be “put in their place,” and He couldn’t have done it more gently. His question should have reminded Mary that He must be about His Father’s business. His “family” are those united to Him by faith and heart, not body and blood. His greatest kinship is with those who do the will of God. (Similarly, the true sons of Abraham are those who have the faith and do the works of Abraham; Jn. 8.39, Rom. 4.12.) Mary was the mother of His manhood, but there was something more to Jesus than manhood, something over which she had no authority; someone she was to worship and adore.

As much as Christ’s rebuff must have hurt His family, I suspect their misunderstanding hurt Him more. One of the sorrows Christ had to bear was that there was a time when His family “did not believe in Him” (Jn. 7.5). In many ways Jesus was a lonely man; “I have trodden the winepress alone” (Isa. 63.3). There have been many tears shed and sorrow felt when believers have let it be known that God is dearer to them than their physical family (Lk. 14.26).

Have you ever noticed that when the half-brothers of Jesus,

James and Jude, each wrote a NT epistle, that not once did they mention their physical kinship to Christ?

Maybe they learned the lesson Christ was teaching them in the little story Mark told in his Gospel.

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The dreaded freedom

When a caregiver has cared for a declining family member or friend for an extended period of time, there is often a sense of relief when the individual passes. This is a normal, common reaction among caregivers, especially if the one they were caring for suffered from dementia. How could there not be relief to realize you don’t have to change your parent’s diaper any longer?

But there’s another side to the coin, and that is the grief of no longer having your loved one near. The grief that comes from watching them take their last breath; the guilt you may feel from remembering times when you could have been kinder or more patient with them; remembering the times you were too busy to be bothered by them; not having them around at special times like Christmas or a birthday; no longer being able to access their historical recall (I’ve thought of a thousand questions I should have asked my parents when they were alive), etc. can trigger a grief that is worse than the relief.

So be careful about wishing your loved one would go ahead and die; they’ll be gone soon enough. The Lord giveth and taketh away, and He’ll take your loved one when he’s good and ready. As hard as your caregiving situation might be, find reasons to be grateful your loved one is still with you. Draw on the strength God provides you each day. Remember His mercies fail not, great is His faithfulness (Lam. 3.22–23).

You’ll still grieve when your loved one leaves, but what a blessing it will be if you can grieve without guilt.

kenny

News about us

- Leroy and Lisa are both home from the hospital. Leroy is still having some “spells”; Lisa is on the mend.
- Those needing special prayer: Mike, Kellee, Mark, Lisa, Leroy, Betty, Pat, Jerry.