

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—29  
Wednesday—15  
Contribution—\$1460

**For meditation:**  
**Proverbs 25.1–5**  
1 Kings 4.32 says  
Solomon spoke  
3,000 proverbs.  
What role did the  
house of David  
play in preserv-  
ing these say-  
ings?

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

## *The Other Side of the Hill*

“What is on the other side of the hill?” said Boreham, “is the oldest question in the world.”

In school we learned about the great explorers—Marco Polo, Columbus, Magellan, et al.—but isn’t exploration just an attempt to see what lies on the other side of the hill? In North America, exploration began with a narrow strip of land on the eastern side of the continent. From there, folks went north, south, and west, especially west, for to the west were the hills. Traversing them wasn’t easy, but those who persisted found on the other side of the hill fertile valleys, rivers, lakes, spreading plains, and rolling prairies.

If you’re reading this, you know that the greatest hill of all lies ahead. I’ve grown old, and the mountain that once looked small in the distance now looms large (Rom. 13.11). I’ve not been to the other side of the hill, but I’ve an idea of what I’ll find there: immensity and infinity. When the time comes to cross the Pass, I’ll look forward to the adventures waiting to be explored and enjoyed.

Do yourself and favor and google Kipling’s “The Explorer.” It’s the story of a man who had to see what was on the other side of the hill.

Till a voice, as bad as conscience,  
rang interminable changes,

On one everlasting whisper,  
day and night repeated—

so: “Something hidden! Go and find it!

Go and look behind the ranges!”

Before long we’ll have a look at the other side of the hill. So long as Christ stands at the divide, we need not fear what we’ll find.

kenny

# Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

Hello, my Brother!

Everything is OK in Orel. Too many diseases attack us; too many viruses live in the world. This year is probably special. It made all of us go through the flu several times.

Every week I read your bulletins and get collateral love from them. I start immediately praying for the people who suffer from illnesses in the list at the end as this is the only thing I can help them with.

Send the love of the Christians from Orel to all the saints in America.

We are well informed about the political actions of European and American Governments. God will judge them really. The situation is dramatic for all the nations. The target of killing thousands of Russians and Ukrainians is achieved.

I do not think the picture of the war changes the nearest month. Russians will not resign as they have no option. It is freedom of the world that is at stake. Europe and Americans will go on supplying Ukrainians with weapons as resigning will mean losing control of the world.

I think at the end Ukraine will be divided into two parts. But it is not the time yet. The first target is to kill as many slavish people as possible. The second target is to undermine the growing prosperity of Russia. How many victims do they need to be satisfied? The devil rules the minds of the people. God knows when meet the end.

Thanks for encouraging, Tack!

In Christ,

Andrei (preacher, Orel church, Orel, Russia)

Sermon: Matthew 4.1–11

## A test in the wild

5 March 2023

## *A word about parables*

“Then He taught them many things by parables” (Mk. 4.2). For the first time in His ministry, Christ used a teaching method—the *parable*—that would become so characteristic of His teaching style that Mark would say, “without a parable He did not speak to them” (v 34).

The parable as a didactic (teaching) tool was not unique to Christ. The word *parable* literally means “to place one thing alongside another” for the purpose of comparison. The process of education is always to move from the known to the unknown. A parable uses something known, familiar, drawn from everyday life to teach something new. (“Earth’s crammed with heaven,” wrote Elizabeth Barrett Browning, “and every common bush afire with God.” Henry Drummond, the great expositor of 1 Corinthians 13, wrote a book, *Natural Law and the Spiritual World*, to illustrate the correspondence between the physical and the spiritual.) With a parable, the whole is greater than the parts; the point of a parable, more often than not, is found in the story as a whole, not in the individual details.

Why did Jesus employ parables in His teaching?

**To make truth clear.** Christ used parables as we use illustrations: to light up a subject and make it more understandable to the mind of a hearer or reader. This was the strength of a parable: it made truth intelligible. And truth is more easily grasped when embedded in a tale. The parable of the Pharisee and publican (Lk. 18.9–14), for example, puts into a nutshell the difference between true and false piety. The good Samaritan better explains the meaning of neighborhood and brotherly love than an abstract, scholarly lecture on the subject. Spend some time thinking about Mark 4.10–12 and Christ’s use of Isaiah 6.9–10, and you’ll see that making truth clear was a primary reason for Christ’s use of parables.

**To make truth memorable.** Christ always had a story when He spoke. We might forget a sermon on the compassion of God, but we don’t forget the parable of the prodigal son. We might not remember a lecture on our responsibility to the poor, but we remember the rich man and Lazarus.

“And they shall all be taught of God” (Jn. 6.45). Jesus, the “teacher come from God” (Jn. 3.2), was a master at using parables to draw men to God.

kenny

## *A bit more on “the dreaded freedom”*

After reading “the dreaded freedom” in last week’s bulletin, a dear friend called to talk about it. What we ended up talking about were the regrets/guilt we carry for those times we were less than our best when caring for our mothers. I would gladly swap the freedom from caregiving I now have for the chance to go back and show mom less grouchiness when I had to interrupt my day to take her to a doctor appointment, or do chores for her around the house, etc. Chances are you understand what I mean.

When my guilt gets the best of me, there’s a story from the myths I remember.

There was a boy with a wonderful mother who fell in love with a wicked girl. The mother’s kindness and goodness was such a rebuke to the girl’s evil that the girl hated her for it. The boy, however, was desperately in love with the girl and asked her to marry him. She said she would on one condition: “You must cut out your mother’s heart and bring it to me.” Insanely blinded by his feelings for the girl, the boy did as she asked—he killed his mother, cut out her heart, and was taking it to the girl when he tripped and fell. The heart spoke out, “Did you hurt yourself, Son?”

Is there anything better about love than it’s forgetfulness? Where grouchiness/impatience/peevishness abounds, a mother’s love and forgetfulness much more abounds. We might remember behavior we’re now ashamed of, but mom doesn’t; she’s removed our selfishness as far from her as the sunrise is from the sunset (Ps. 103.10).

Thank goodness we can’t stop our mothers from loving us. But love shouldn’t presume on love. If you love someone, love them kindly, patiently, longsufferingly while you have the chance to do so in deed and in truth (1 Jn. 3.18). I wouldn’t wish guilt—even the not-so-guilty kind—on anyone. Remember that your dreaded freedom will get here soon enough.

kenny

## *News about us*

- Dave and Donna are on their way to Mayo for Donna’s regular checkup.
- Mike’s shoulder surgery will be the 16th. Lisa is on the mend. As of Wednesday, Leroy seemed a bit better.