

Ministers:  
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley  
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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—34  
Wednesday—  
Contribution—\$

**For meditation:**  
Proverbs 25.23–24  
Some things invariably follow other things. What is the aim of backbiting? Can a backbiter use truth as well as lies to achieve his aim? What should follow backbiting words?

Radio program:  
WGCY FM, 106.3  
Sundays at 8 AM

## ***“We don’t talk like that on Tuesdays”***

**You are the salt of the earth, Matt. 5.13**

When I lived in Nashville, on Tuesdays I would make my way to a downtown soup kitchen to help serve lunch to homeless men. There, I worked alongside friends, including Belinda, a friend since college. It was her idea to volunteer in this way. I’m glad she thought of it; I’m glad I did it; it was a great experience.

I hadn’t thought about the soup kitchen in a long time but was recently reminded of it while reading a book Belinda has written about her many years of experience as a social worker. She wrote about our time at the mission, told how we’d sing gospel songs while working, and mentioned that some of the men began looking for us and made sure they came on the days we served lunch. They enjoyed us being there.

One day, after we finished serving, Belinda was wiping tables and overheard a man telling a vulgar joke. Other men around him were starting to snigger and laugh. Belinda, who is as mischievous as they come, walked over and asked the joke-teller, “Does your mama know you talk like that?”

The man looked up, startled and embarrassed. Belinda walked away, but one of the “regulars” who heard the joke came up to her and said apologetically, “I’m sorry, Miss Belinda. He’s new. He don’t know we don’t talk like that on Tuesdays.”

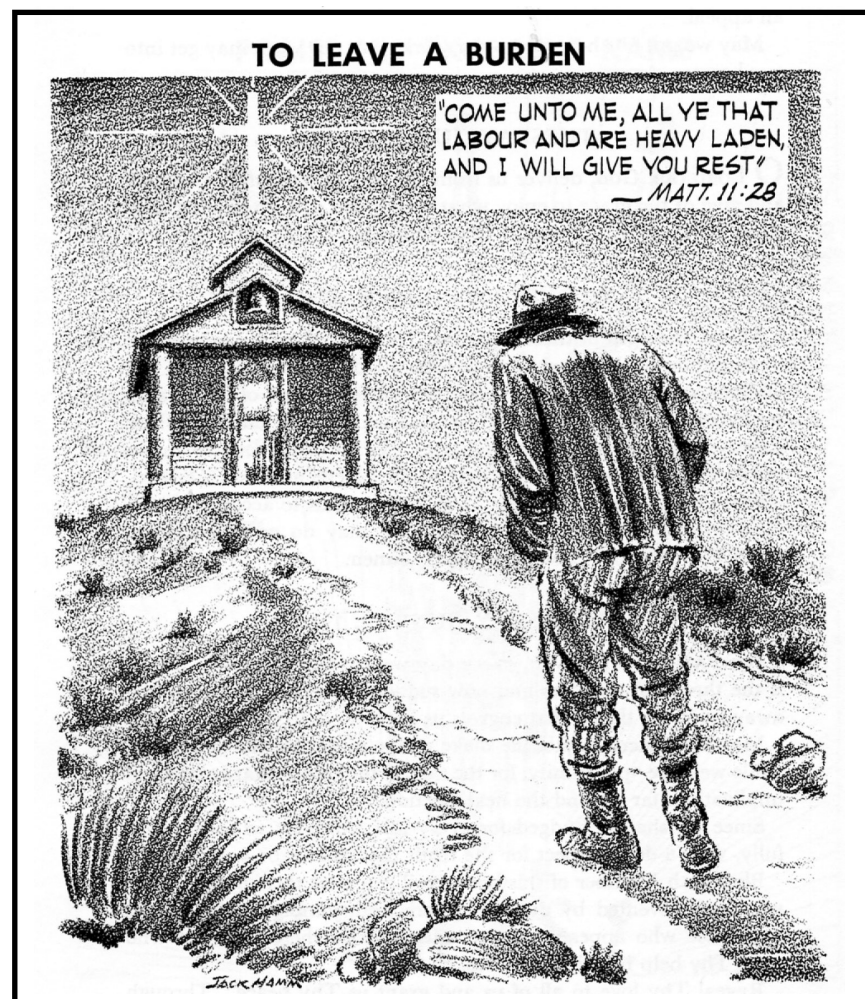
Any preacher worth his salt who preaches on Matthew 5.13 will tell you that one characteristic of salt is that it prevents corruption. A Christian’s life, indeed, can impede corruption.

At least on Tuesdays.

kenny

# Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



Sermon: 1 Peter 1.3–5

## Hope

28 May 2023

## *The maniac and the Gadarenes*

The greatest tragedy in the story of the Gadarene demoniac was not the tortured condition of the possessed man or the drowning of the swine; the greatest tragedy was the reaction of the Gadarenes.

When the swineherds got over the shock of what they'd seen, they went to town, told what happened, and everyone in town went out to see for themselves. They likely saw the carcasses of the pigs floating in the lake, but they definitely saw that the local bogeyman had regained his sanity (v 15).

What would you expect the effect of this to be? Gratitude to Christ for the man's cleansing? The bringing of other demonized victims needing exorcisms (see 1.32). A spontaneous chorus of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"?

Nope. Instead, the town asked Jesus to leave. As incredible as this was, it wasn't unusual. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (Jn. 1.11). After His comments at Nazareth, Christ's former neighbors tried to kill Him (Lk. 4.29). A Samaritan village saw He was headed for Jerusalem, and refused to welcome Him (Lk. 9.53). And Jerusalem killed Him. The Gadarenes weren't alone in rejecting Christ. He comes offering to restore men to spiritual and moral wholeness, and people—then and now—won't have it.

All of which shows that *miracles don't guarantee faith*. The Gadarenes saw what Christ did and reacted with fear (v 15; were they afraid of losing more property? was their fear the apprehension a community has when a nuclear reactor is built in the area? was their fear due to guilt?). Miraculous plagues and the parting of the Red Sea didn't make a believer out of Pharaoh; Christ filled Israel with miracles, but the Pharisees didn't believe (Matt. 12.39); etc. The devil can control a man to where he will believe anything—no matter how irrational—before believing God (Matt. 12.24–30). When men have not eyes to see, no amount of light can help them see. It's the pure in heart who see God.

Asked to leave, Jesus left, but He left behind the best testimony to Himself He could leave—namely, the former demoniac (v 19). *Christians are not only to have arguments for God, their life is to be an argument for God*. "One thing I know that though I was blind, now I see" (Jn 9.25).

How do you argue with that?

kenny

## *Impressions of Israel, 2*

The Western or "Wailing" Wall is a 105' long × 62' high section of the retaining wall around the Temple Mount. Built by Herod the Great, it was *not* torn down by the Roman Army in AD 70. It's one of the first places visitors to Jerusalem want to see.

The Western Wall Heritage Foundation has created a virtual tour of Herod's Temple using 360-technology. Our group was taken into an ancient stone room just to the north of the Wailing Wall, put on swivel chairs, and given goggles and ear phones. Everywhere you looked you could see a digital reconstruction of Herod's Temple. At one point, I turned around and was stunned to see hanging in front of me the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Josephus says the veil was 60' high and 30' wide, as thick as a man's palm (about 4"; Talmud). This was the veil that was ripped in half when Christ died (Heb. 10.19ff). The visual presentation looked as real as CGI can make something look and left me stunned by the size of the Temple. <https://thekotel.org/en/10802/>. When in Jerusalem, don't miss it.

kenny



### *News about us*

- Donna's knee surgery is just over a week away. Keep her in your prayers.
- Cody, Jordan, and Harpy are in Amarillo, TX, today.