

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—30
Wednesday—13
Contribution—\$1900

For meditation:
Proverbs 26.1–2
Are fools ever
honored in our
society because
of their appear-
ance? Intellect?
Money? Social
position? What is
the only true ba-
sis for honoring
another? (Phil.
1.25–30.)

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Love

No authority is obeyed more readily than the authority of love.

Motorists who ignore the speed limit when approaching a school will slow down if they see children present. Their concern for children and their fear of harming a child will affect them when a speed limit sign won't. They may ignore the law, but they cannot ignore their love for a child. No law in this world carries more clout than love.

HOW LOVE BEGINS

"We love Him because He first loved us" (1 Jn. 4.19). The reality of our love for God rests on the certainty of His love for us. If you want proof of God's love, here it is: "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us" (1 Jn. 3.16). Our love for God should be the natural response when we learn how He loved us.

WHAT LOVE BECOMES

"For the love of Christ compels us" (2 Cor. 5.14). Love becomes the motive for service. What job is more tiring than a mother's, yet what job is more happily fulfilled than a mother's? Love compels our service even under the most unfavorable conditions.

HOW LOVE BEHAVES

Love's behavior is described in 1 Corinthians 13.4–8. It's a standard of behavior that takes us far beyond what anyone expects of us (Matt. 5.41; who hasn't known a marriage where a wife stays with a brute of a husband long after most think she should leave?). It's when our love takes us beyond the expect to selfless, sacrificial service that "all will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn. 13. 35).

Christ-like love in us sends a message as powerful as a good sermon. For isn't it the case that actions speak louder than words?

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

"Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God . . . [but] worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator." Romans 1.21,25

- God doesn't differentiate between people on the basis of their ethnicity, education, location, etc., but on the basis of *their response to His revelation*. Those who respond to Him in worship are the *wise*. Those who withhold worship are the *foolish* or *wicked* (see Dan. 12.10, Matt. 7.24–27, Rom. 1.22, 1 Cor. 2.14, 15).
- The foolish display their foolishness by worshipping what God has created rather than to God. They become pantheistic, preoccupied/obsessed with creatures and creation rather than God, dedicating their life to changing the climate, rescuing animals, worshipping experts and rulers, etc.
- Let the wise continue to "Serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Heb. 12.28).

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Sermon: 1 Peter 1.10–12

The Old & New Testament Church

18 June 2023

The hem of His garment, part 2

FAITH'S TOUCH

It's slander to accuse the woman (as some do) in our text who wanted to touch the hem of Christ's garment of being superstitious. *She wasn't trying to touch a garment, she was trying to touch God!* Her faith was in Christ, not His clothes. She believed His anointing, like Aaron's, went to the very edge of His garments (Ps. 133.2). It's still the case that we get to God by touching the hem—Christ's humanity being the great hem of the garment by which we touch the Godhead. Sometimes the hem is a word of Scripture, or a comment by a friend, by which we touch God. Whatever the means, when we connect with Christ—rather than just crowd Him (5. 24)—there is healing.

POWER'S TRANSFER

When the woman made contact with Christ, two things happened simultaneously: she *immediately* felt healing (Mk. 5.29), and Christ *immediately* knew power had exited Him (5.30). We tend to think Jesus' miracles/healings Jesus cost Him nothing, being nothing more than the wave of His hand or the speaking of a word. But that's not what Scripture indicates. *To help her, Christ had to give her something of Himself.* When people are seriously injured and have lost blood, they need a transfusion—the blood of another must be transferred to them. Mercy and compassion involve a cost and a transfer. If we are to help others, something from us—time, bearing their burden, a listening ear, a helping hand, a shoulder to cry on, etc.—must flow to them. (For insight on the action of mercy, see 2 Cor. 8.9–15 and the reference to manna.)

THE STORY TOLD

“Who touched My clothes?” (5.30) was, to the disciples, a ridiculous question (5.31), but it had a revelatory purpose. The healing the woman received personally was to be revealed publicly. Luke says she declared “in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately” (8.47). What Christ does in us and for us is not to be kept to ourselves. When there's a difference in us, others are bound to notice, and we are to let them know who gets the credit. There are times when we need to tell others what's happened to us, not from ego or self-promotion, but to make sure they know “to God be the glory, great things He has done!”

kenny

Impressions of Israel, 5

One of the surprises on the trip to Israel was realizing how close places are. From the airport in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, for example, was a twenty-minute train ride (I expected an hour or longer). From the Mount of Olives to the Dead Sea was twenty-five minutes, but in all the world there is nothing quite like the 4000' drop in elevation from the Mount of Olives (2710' above sea level) to the Jordan Valley (1300' below sea level, where it enters the Dead Sea). The terrain between Olivet and the Dead Sea is a topographical curiosity known as the Wilderness of Judea, a God-forsaken place the devil has been known to frequent (Matt. 4.1). The Wilderness is part of the tropical trench that is the Jordan Valley, a parched, seemingly sterile world of yellowish-brown hills nearly devoid of vegetation. As we rode in air conditioned comfort to the lowest place on the surface of the earth, even the air became a sickly yellow, and I recalled that H. G. Wells, in his novel *The Time Machine*, cited the Dead Sea to conjure up “the sense of abominable desolation that hung over the world.” The wilderness is a desolate place indeed, even against the backdrop of the Mountains of Moab, which are perpetually streaked by purple shadows.

NEXT INSTALLMENT: MASADA

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News about us

- Jerry is facing further treatments. It's a trying time, and he and Carolyn need our prayers. Donna is having the time of her life recovering from knee surgery. And remember Leroy who is recovering from his recent falls.