

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—36
Wednesday—11
Contribution—\$7800

For meditation:
Proverbs 26.10–12
Our soul is capable of improvement. Its potential is vast. As it improves, our ability to enjoy God and His blessings increases. But what keep improvement from taking place in our soul?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

“Grace for grace”

John 1.16

Read John 8.1–11 for there’s no better story in the Fourth Gospel that illustrates the meaning implied in the words, “grace for grace” (1.16).

CHRIST’S FAIRNESS

“Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act” (v 4), and Christ didn’t deny it. But the men who caught the woman weren’t innocents, and Christ refused to limit the discussion of sin to just the woman. “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first” (v 7). If it was fair to point out the accused’s sin, it was fair to point out the accusers’ sins. If Christ’s words were quoted every time a believer’s sin was put in the spotlight in a church assembly, I wonder how many would be left in the building (v 9)?

CHRIST’S GENTLENESS

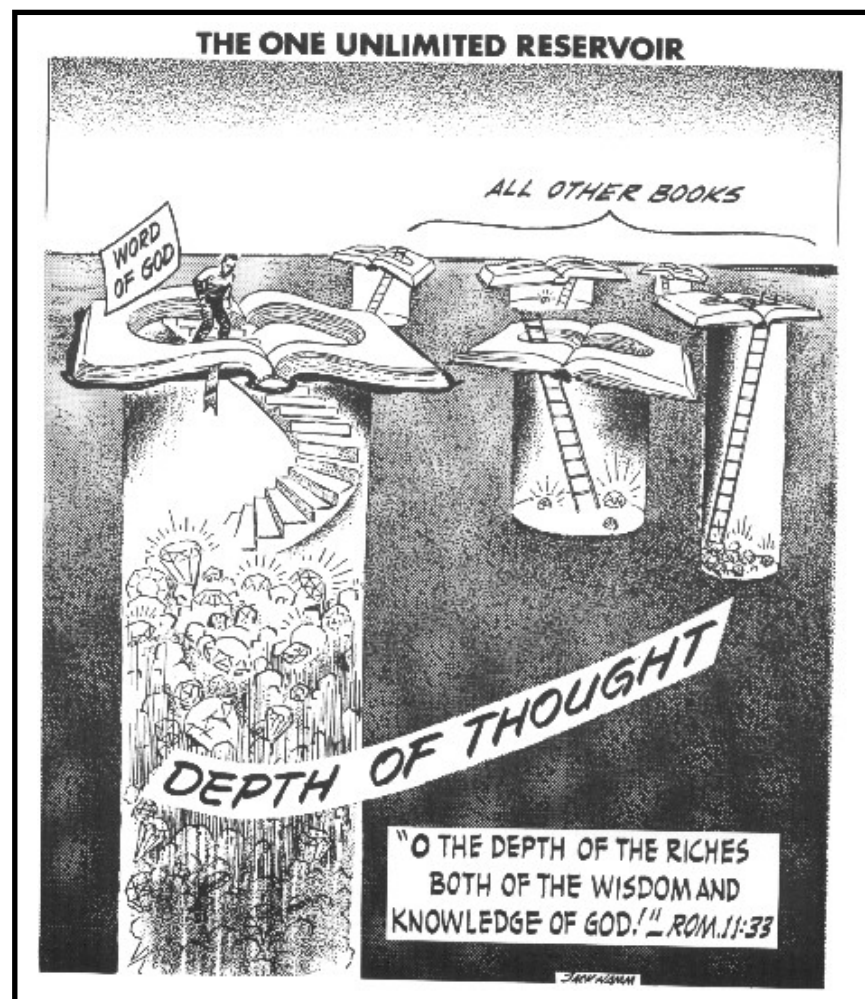
We all know what the men thought of the woman; it was important she know what Christ thought of her. When the accusers leave, “Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.” Almost certainly there were others standing around (v 2), but for all practical purposes, the only ones present were the sinner and the Friend of sinners. To properly deal with sin—ours and others—we often need to clear the room of everyone except Christ so we can hear what He has to say. For what He says is the only thing that counts.

—more to come—

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



Sermon: 1 Peter 1.13–25

Savior & Sovereign

16 July 2023

Conscience makes cowards of us all

It's a ghastly story. An incestuous union, an unambiguous rebuke, a woman's ire, a husband's capitulation, and a prophet's decapitation (v 27). The fame of Jesus was spreading, but when Herod the king heard about Him (v 14)—he was terrified, thinking Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead.

Herod Antipas was the son of Herod the Great, who had tried to kill the infant Christ (Matt. 2). The Herodians were Edomites in blood, Jews in religion, devoid of morality, and the last to hold an Israelite scepter. Antipas's scandalous marriage to his niece Herodias was blip on the radar of the Herodian evil, but it well illustrates three torments associated with the effects of sin.

A WEAKNESS HE COULDN'T SURMOUNT

Ordinary strength can keep us out of sin, and heroic strength can get us out of sin, but Herod Antipas had neither. Lacking the moral strength to forego a drunken party (v 21), he ended up making a drunken promise (v 23). As a result, the New Testament Ahab played right into the hands of the New Testament Jezebel. Who, infuriated by the New Testament Elijah's condemnation of her lifestyle, wanted him dead (v 19). Herodias was crafty enough to allow her husband no loophole. She didn't simply ask that John be put to death but asked for John's *head, here* (Matt. 14.8), *now* ("at once," v 25).

Even then, Herod could have avoided murder; he broke his marriage vow to his first wife, surely he could figure a way out of his vow to a step-daughter. And maybe he would have done this if it wouldn't have caused him to lose face with his guests (v 26). Antipas hadn't the strength to resist peer pressure. He was wicked, yes, but maybe worse, he was weak.

A CONSCIENCE HE COULDN'T SUPPRESS

I suspect Herod had been doing his best to forget what he had done to a man he admired (v 20). Backed into a crime he loathed by the stronger will of his pathological wife, the thing he hated was the thing he did (Rom. 7.15).

A GUILT HE COULDN'T SHAKE

Guilt is shaken by confession, not a cover up (Ps. 32.1–5). Being delivered from his weakness and wretchedness (Rom. 7.25) was as close as repenting, but he hadn't the strength to do so. We're never in greater danger than when we're past the point of starting over, incapable of being renewed to repentance (Heb. 6.4–6).

kenny

Impressions of Israel, 8

The fortress appropriately named "Machaerus" (Gr. *sword*, Mk.14.47), where John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded (see opposite), crowned a tall, conical hill on the northeast side of the Dead Sea in the modern nation of Jordan. Surrounded by the Moab mountains, it is one of the most isolated places on earth. Superman didn't have to go to the arctic to build his Fortress of Solitude, he could have had all the solitude he wanted on Machaerus.

From the hill's summit, you can see the water of the Dead Sea and brown, desert hills rising and falling in every direction. If you know where to look, you can make out the Mount of Olives on the western horizon. Only ruins—of the fortress and the adjoining city—remain.

Machaerus was truly one of the memorable sights on the tour. As I was standing atop it, taking in views I will never forget, I suddenly

thought, "I can't hear any sounds of civilization"—not the sound of a single internal combustion engine could be heard. It was the most total silence I had ever known, broken only by the occasional cry of a bird.

kenny



News about us

- Leroy was still in Carle Saturday morning. All concerned were in the process of deciding on his return to Paxton. This is a difficult time for Leroy's family; pray for them.
- Also pray for Nancy, Jenny, Tom, and Jerry.