

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

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Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—36
Wednesday—11
Contribution—\$

For meditation:
Proverbs 26.13–16
Being foolish complicates efforts to improve the soul; being foolish and self-conceited really complicates the matter. When a man is encased in self-satisfaction and self-esteem, how can a word of wisdom reach him?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

“Grace for grace” **John 1.16**

—continued from last week—

JESUS’ FORGIVENESS

“Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” (Jn. 8.10). Christ had given the accusers a chance to enforce the law they claimed the woman had broken, but not even those shameless men had the nerve to enforce their ungodly double standard (take a moment to read Gen. 38 and Hosea 4.14). All the accusers left; none would condemn her. But God certainly could, and Christ could. Given this, what follows next illustrates the unexpectedness of grace, “Neither do I condemn thee” (8.11). Jesus knew the woman was guilty, but He also knew the tears, shame, guilt, and humility that were in her heart (Jn. 2.25). Based on what Jesus saw, He forgave. (See the same principle at work in Lk. 18.13–14.)

JESUS’ HOLINESS

“Go and sin no more” (8.11). When there’s a war going on (Gal. 5.17), people get wounded, and when they are, they’re given the best care and attention. This woman had been wounded, but the words of Jesus healed her and put her back into the fight. Christ neither excused or condoned her sin, but made it clear it had to stop.

And in saying what He said, He wasn’t limiting or diminishing her life; He was stating the very condition that would allow her to really live her life! Look at the verse that follows the story: “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (8.12).

Christ’s grace forgives us; His holiness brings us from darkness back into the light.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

Left Forever Unsaid

If all that we say in a single day,
With never a word left out
Were printed each night
In clear black and white
‘Twould prove strange reading, no doubt.

And then, just suppose,
‘Ere our eyes we could close,
We must read the whole record through;
Then wouldn’t we sigh,
And wouldn’t we try
A great less talking to do?

And I more than half think
That many a kink
Would be smoother in life’s tangled thread
If half that we say in a single day
Were left forever unsaid.

Author Unknown

Sermon: 1 Peter 2.1–3

Christian growth

23 July 2023

When we're barely holding our own

After feeding the five thousand (Mk. 6.30–44), *immediately*, says Mark, Jesus “made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side” (v 45). The reason seems to be the intent of the five thousand to acclaim Jesus as king (Jn. 6.15)—not as King of kings, but as a political alternative to Caesar. The disciples shared this view, and it seems Jesus sent them away before they got caught up in any foolish excitement. It turns out they were better off in a storm at sea than at a political rally.

Sailing across the lake shouldn't have taken long, but it did. The evening came and went, midnight passed, and dawn wasn't far off (v 48), and the Twelve were stuck in the middle of the lake (v 47). The Sea of Galilee is notorious for sudden storms (4.37), and the disciples were making no progress at all against contrary winds and waves that had sprung up (Matt. 14.24).

Have you ever been stuck in a situation, spinning your wheels, not sliding back, but not going forward? Few things are more frustrating than being brought to a standstill. If you know what I'm talking about, here are three aspects of this story you may find relevant.

JESUS KNOWS WHAT'S BEST

The disciples may not have understood why they had to leave (v 45), but Christ understood, and that's all that mattered. They might not have known why their situation was such a *strain* (v 48, struggle, making no headway), but Christ knew, and that's all that mattered. During times of trouble, surely there's comfort in the fact that He who loves us purely, perfectly, and eternally knows why and when we need to sail into a storm.

JESUS KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING

It was the darkest hour of the night; Jesus was on land, and the disciples were on the sea, but the Lord “saw them straining at rowing” (v 48). When I was on a school board, I always tried to assess how any proposal I voted for would affect the ones who had to implement the proposal. When Jesus tells us to sail for the other side, He knows what that will mean for us in practical terms. He not only knows the why and when, He also knows the what and will not allow the what to be more than we can handle.

HE KNOWS WHEN TO HELP

Christ will not lessen our trial so long as there's gain, nor will He lengthen it when it means unnecessary pain. When we're in

our fourth watch of the night (v 48), and no one else can see us or reach us, be sure that the Lord will arrive. And when He does, the wind will cease (Matt. 14.32), and in no time at all we'll be at the place where He wants us to be (Jn. 6.21).

kenny

Impressions of Israel, 9

Nazareth is one of the renown cities in Israel, for it was there that Christ spent His boyhood and “increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (2.52).

Nazareth overlooks the Plain of Esdraelon, which stretches as a green expanse to the hills of Samaria. Over twenty battlefields are to be found on the plain, which has thundered to the chariots of Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. On Esdraelon, Barak smote the Canaanites, Gideon drove the Midianites toward the Jordan, and just a few miles to the southeast. Saul consulted with a witch.

The rocks and hills of a place don't change; the terrain I saw at Nazareth is the same topography Jesus undoubtedly saw. Anybody thrown off Mount Precipice, alleged to be the hill in Luke 4.29, would die. An organization called the Nazareth Project built and maintains a village meant to resemble Nazareth as it would have been in the time of Christ. Sitting in the replica synagogue was especially moving. I'll not forget Nazareth.



Mount Precipice

kenny

News about us

- Leroy is in heaven. This coming Wednesday, we'll gather to remember him at the Rosenbaum Funeral Home. Visitation is from 10 am to noon; the funeral is at noon.