

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—37
Wednesday—
Contribution—\$885

For meditation:
Proverbs 27.1–2
It's right to be
praiseworthy; it's
right that praise-
worthiness be
praised, but we
are not to praise
ourselves. Let
someone else do
that.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

The Hindu version of Acts 2.38

In *The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag*, I came across the following:

If you are a Hindu, from the sun-scorched plains of India, and you desire—as all good Hindus do—to perform the pilgrimage to the age-old shrines of Kedarnath and Badrinath, you must start on your pilgrimage from Hardwar and, in order to acquire a full measure of the merits vouchsafed to you for the correct performance of the pilgrimage, you must walk every step of the way from Hardware to Kedarnath, and thence over the mountain tract to Badrinath, barefoot.

Having purified yourself by immersion in the sacred Har-ki-pauri pool, and done *darshan* [meeting with a holy person or guru] at the many shrines and temples in Hardwar and added your mite to their coffers, you must not omit to toss a coin within reach of the festering stumps—which once were hands—of the lepers who line the narrowest part of the pilgrim road above the sacred pool, for if you make this omission, they will call down curses on your head.

Compare what it takes to be a good Hindu with what Christianity prescribes. “But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who shall ascend into heaven?” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10.6–9).

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

O Lord,
grant us grace
never to parley
with temptation,
never to tamper
with conscience,
never to spare the
right eye, or hand, or foot that is
a snare to us;
never to lose our souls, though in
exchange we should gain the
whole world.



Christina Rossetti

Sermon: 1 Peter 2.13–25

The grace of submission

27 August 2023

“Who do you say that I am?”

A pivotal moment had arrived in Christ’s ministry, and He urgently wants to escape the crowds to spend some private time with His disciples, but doing so proved difficult.

In Mark 6.31, Christ tells the Twelve, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” This attempt to get away, however, didn’t work as they were followed by a great multitude of over five thousand people (6.34), whom Christ fed with five loaves and two fish.

Finding no privacy around the Sea of Galilee, Christ made a two-days journey to the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon. “And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden” (7.24). The Lord’s reputation had preceded Him, and a woman with a demonized daughter found Him (7.25).

Leaving Syro-Phoenicia, Christ returned to the area of Decapolis (7.31), south and east of the Sea of Galilee, and is found by a crowd of over four thousand (8.9). Christ turns north and encounters a blind man. To avoid further publicity/delays, He took the man out of town, restored his sight, and told him to return to his house without going into town or telling anyone in town” (8.26).

Christ continued north, leading His men twenty-five miles to Caesarea Philippi, away from the crowds and clamor of Galilee. There, near a site famous for its collection of pagan shrines and temples, Christ finally found the quietness to ask His men the question He had been wanting to ask.

It was a critical moment in the Lord’s ministry. Luke says that prior to asking the question, Christ spent time in prayer (Lk. 9.18). And what did the question concern? *His own person.*

“Who do men say that I am?” (8.27); everything the people thought about Him was wrong (8.28). “But who do you say that I am?” (8.29). It wasn’t the opinion of the crowd but the faith of the Twelve that mattered. Upon their answer rode the success or failure of His ministry. Christ had failed with the people, but what about the Twelve? What did they think?

“You are the Christ” (8.29). Their faith that in Him was the highest manhood and the truest Godhead qualified them to carry the gospel to the world (Matt. 28.18–20).

Game on.

kenny

Impressions of Israel, 14

It was the city of Capernaum, on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee, that witnessed two or three of the most important years ever to occur in world history.

Somewhere on the curve of the shore Christ saw Peter and Andrew casting their nets and James and John mending theirs, and He called them to be fishers of men. From one of the nearby bays, Christ put out in a little boat and spoke to the multitudes. Capernaum witnessed miracles and wonders beyond belief. It was here that Peter had a home, which Italian archaeologists believed they identified in 1968. And here was a synagogue that figures in numerous Gospel passages. The synagogue ruins you see today are Roman in architecture and are said to belong to a 4th-century structure built on the site of a previous synagogue, which was possibly the one Christ knew.

The housing ruins you see now are stone age-looking, but they were undoubtedly a typical middle-class neighborhood in Christ’s time.

Capernaum lends itself to reconstructing in your mind what it must have been like to have seen Jesus out and about, teaching, healing, and announcing the coming kingdom. And you remember that the ruins around you are mute testimony to the judgment Christ said would come on the city because of its unbelief. Better to be a Sodomite, said Christ, than to be a Capernaumite (Matt. 11.23–24).

But when I was there, it wasn’t judgment but peace that pervaded—the peace of silence, of beauty, and of memory.

kenny



News about us

- Visitation for Betty Chumbley is tomorrow at Lux Funeral Home from 5 to 7 PM. The funeral is Tuesday morning at 10 AM. If you can help out with the luncheon afterward in some way, doublecheck with Karen.