

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—33
Wednesday—10
Contribution—\$760

For meditation:
Proverbs 27.12–14
Wise men are
good forecasters.
They see the ef-
fects of certain
causes and deter-
mine to avoid the
causes at all cost.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

A gift sweeter than the rain of heaven

Several years ago my good friend Ralph put me onto *The Dun Cow* by Walter Wangerin. I enjoyed the book so much that I've read a number of things from Wangerin's pen since.

One of his better essays, found in his book *Ragman*, is entitled "Fights Unfought, Forgiveness Forgone." In it, Wangerin describes the passive/aggressive tactics used by he and his wife against each other in the early years of their marriage. When disagreements came up, she would invariably cry, and he would respond by storming out the door and walking the streets for two or three hours.

On one memorable fight, they had gone through the usual cycle of begging, tears, pressure, stomping, undeserved accusations, and pouting. To cap it off, Wangerin put on his overcoat, ran down the stairs, bolted out the door, and slammed it behind him . . . leaving his coat tail caught in the door. He reached into his pocket for the key, but there was no key. He was caught.

At that point he had two options: slip out of the coat and go on his two-hour pout in freezing weather, or ring the doorbell and humiliatingly wait for his wife to open the door. After about ten minutes he rang the doorbell, and his wife came down the stairs.

When she opened the door and saw what had happened, she started laughing. She laughed so hard that tears ran down her face, and she put her hand on her husband's shoulder to steady herself. Wrote Wangerin, "This was the gift of God, arranging armistice, staging reconciliation between a wife and her husband, a gift more sweet than all the rain of heaven." But instead of laughing with her, which would have defused the tension immediately, Wangerin went on his pouty walk in his blind, sophomoric pride.

Laughter is not only the best medicine, it may be the best marriage counsel you'll ever get. Husbands/wives, never allow your pride to prevent you from defusing your own stupidity.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

BEING STALKED DESPITE THE INJECTION



Sermon: 1 Peter 3.1–6

The godly wife

24 September 2023

The kingdom, the power, and the glory

At the end of the Lord's Prayer, Christ attributed three singular qualities to the Father: "Yours is the *kingdom* and the *power* and the *glory*." Standing in the shadow of the cross, it didn't seem any of these applied to Christ (Mk. 8.32–33); thus, it was necessary the disciples learn the profound truth that God's kingdom, power, and glory were displayed most brilliantly when Christ hung in darkness on a cross. To help them see this, three were allowed to see Christ shine brighter than the noonday sun.

The *transfiguration* likely occurred in the vicinity of Caesarea Philippi (8.27) at a spot noted for its altitude and solitude ("high mountain apart," 9.2). The qualities of the Father noted in the Lord's Prayer and present in the transfiguration are as follows.

COMPLIANT TO GOD'S WILL

God's *kingdom* refers to His rule, His kingly dominion. "Your kingdom come, your will be done" (Matt. 6.13) explains the practical side of God's rule—His kingdom consists of the obedient who observe all things commanded them (Matt. 28.20).

When Peter spoke in 8.32–33, Christ called him Satan; and the next time Peter speaks, he again says something inappropriate (9.5,6). It was then that the God spoke from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (9.7). Jesus must be *trusted and obeyed* whether He speaks of His own fate (8.31) or that of His followers (8.34–38). And Peter listened, for in 1 Peter 1.2 he shows that allegiance to Christ means accepting His cross.

CONFIDENT IN GOD'S POWER

The cross epitomized weakness, but when God wants, He can demonstrate His might in a way that is unambiguously divine (Acts 9.3–5). The sheer power associated with the transfiguration should have assured the Twelve that Christ was in control, and it should have prepared them for the resurrection power that on the third day declared Christ to be the Son of God (Rom. 1.4).

CONCERNED WITH GOD'S GLORY

Man, says Paul in Romans 1.21, is meant to glorify God. 1 Corinthians 6.20 says we're to glorify God in our bodies. In 1 Corinthians 10.31, all we do is to be done to the glory of God. Nothing is more shameful, wrote Duncan, than when "God is defied, the Spirit is resisted, and His Son rejected, His laws broken, His day disregarded, His house empty."

When we say, "For thine is . . . the glory," do we mean it?
kenny

Impressions of Israel, 18

Nearly every trip, especially those overseas, contains the unexpected. I didn't expect to end up in jail during a stopover in Athens, Greece, in 2010, but I did, and I lived to tell the tale (a million times). Two memorable kerfuffles on the trip to Israel occurred when we crossed from Israel into Jordan.

First, our Jordanian guide/coach was not there to meet us. There are three ports of entry between Israel and Jordan; we were at the northernmost one and our Jordanian guide was at the middle one, about two hours away. The snafu got sorted out, and our group was greatly helped and entertained by a gregarious Egyptian (guiding another group) who looked like Omar Sharif, whose name was Faero (pron. Pharaoh). He couldn't have been kinder to us, and he refused the tips we offered him for his help and reassurance.



"Pharaoh"

Second, there was the infamous incident involving Monica's menorah. One of our group, Monica, had bought a small menorah (candlestick) in Israel as a souvenir. When her luggage was scanned at the border, red strobe lights went off, klaxons blared, tanks rolled in, and a company of armed Jordanian guards converged on Monica's luggage (this story would bore you to tears if I didn't embellish it), took it to a table, opened it, and found the forbidden object. We were told the contraband Jewish candlestick was not allowed into Muslim Jordan, and it had to be returned to Israel, which would have taken the better part of a day or longer.



Our guide pulled one of the guards aside and engaged in some serious whispering.

The result was that a \$20 bribe slipped into a guard's hand can open locked doors as easily as Peter's angel did in Acts 12.

When our group voted for which of our bunch should get the "Ugly American" award, Monica won unanimously!
kenny

News about us

- Keep Jerry, Carolyn, and Nancy in your prayers.