

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—4
Contribution—\$

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 5.12–17
What can money do
to your sleep? your
peace of mind?
How much of our
money will be take
with us when we
die?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

O love that will not let me go

This arrived yesterday from my close friend
Glenn Seaton.

**Wanted to tell you about a Christian who just
passed in Memphis. Her name was Jenalda
Horn. I was holding a meeting in Memphis
about fifteen years ago. She and some widow
women took me out to eat. She told me this
story.**

**She and her husband were married for forty
years. Early in her marriage, they were
driving over some train tracks and the car
stalled and wouldn't start. A train was coming,
and her husband yelled for her to get out
of the car. He was paralyzed* and unable to
get out himself. She refused and told him, "If
we are going to die, we will die together."**

**She said they held each other, and the
train hit them. Both were seriously injured
and spent weeks in the hospital. He was paralyzed
for life. They lived a rich, full, happy
life together with her taking care of him.
They loved sports, and traveling, and the
Lord. She died this week on her birthday at
84. I am not sure of all the details but that is
what happened . . . a lunch I have never forgotten.**

***Jenalda's husband's disability at the time of
the accident may have been due to wounds
received in Viet Nam.**

Talk about an unsung hero. Talk about a
love for better *or worse*. Talk about a love
that bears all things. Talk about a love that
shames me and my shallowness to my core. I
know people like Jenalda, and I feel very
small compared to them.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

In the news . . .

The Shroud of Turin

[https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14962049/
Shroud-Turin-not-laid-Jesus.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14962049/Shroud-Turin-not-laid-Jesus.html)

The researcher referenced in this link asserts that the
Shroud of Turin, claimed to be the burial cloth of Christ, is in
fact "a masterpiece of Christian art," which is the very position
taken by the 1912 edition of *The Catholic Encyclopedia*.

**The shroud . . . Was probably painted without
fraudulent intent to aid the dramatic setting of
the Easter Sequence. . . . On the supposition that
this is an authentic relic dating from the year A.
D. 30, why should it have retained its brilliance
through countless journeys and changes of climate
for fifteen centuries, and then in four centuries
more have become almost invisible? On the other
hand if it be a fabrication of the fifteenth century,
this is exactly what we should expect.**

The Catholic Encyclopedia (1912), XIII, 762–63

Has the Foundation of the Tabernacle Been Found?

[https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14963685/Ark-
Covenant-mystery-biblical-relic-discovered.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14963685/Ark-Covenant-mystery-biblical-relic-discovered.html)

Sermon: Hebrews 11.7

Noah the ark builder

10 August 2025

What if?

**Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—
Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
Habakkuk 3.17–18**

Maybe a good way to look at Habakkuk's valedictory is to read it as a series of suppositions updated to our day and time.

What if my retirement savings are wiped out . . .

What if I get sick . . .

What if a spouse, or parent, or child becomes disabled and I must care for them the rest of my life . . .

What if I become disabled . . .

What if my children are so busy they have no time for me . . .

What if my children are angry with me and have abandoned me. .

What if another war breaks out . . .

What if there's another pandemic . . .

What if? . . . What if? . . . What if?

Many counselors would tell you that when *what ifs* knock at your mind or heart, slam the door, lock it, and do not let them inside. I think that's good advice; it's how I try to deal with unhelpful thoughts and feelings.

But that's not what Habakkuk did. When he foresaw the effects of the Babylonian invasion of Judah and the "what ifs" came calling, he invited them in! Not only that, but once they were inside, he listened to all they had to say about the coming catastrophe and collapse.

His reaction, basically, was this: "From whom did I get my blessings in the first place? The LORD, that's who. So what if I lose it all? The God who gave me everything can abundantly replace everything (Matt. 19.29). *Hallelujah anyway!* The Lord is the One who gives and takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord! I will still celebrate Him as my Lord, my God, and my Savior!

When all is gone, God is still here. It's a trifle to lose our gifts, it's a tragedy to lose the Giver.

kenny

Christ's conversation with Peter, John 21

A key scene in John 21 is the exchange between Jesus and Peter in vv 15–17, which is the sequel to John 13.36–38 and 18.15–18, 25–27. When Peter said he'd die for Christ (13.37), the Lord countered by saying Peter would deny Him three times. In ch. 18, this prediction came true. I wonder if the fact Jesus cooked some fish on a "fire of coals" (21.9) stabbed Peter's conscience, for the only other place this expression occurs in John is in 18.18, where Peter warmed himself over a "fire of coals" in the very place where his denials occurred.

Here are some similarities and differences in 21.15–17 that help unravel the significance of the scene.

21.15: Simon . . . do you love Me more than these? [Peter] said to Him, "Yes, Lord: You know that I love You." [Jesus] said to him, "Feed My lambs." Jesus calls Peter by his given name, *Simon*, rather than nickname, *Rock* (*petros*). Christ gave him in John 1.42. Despite Peter's insistence on his loyalty, he hadn't acted very rocklike in the courtyard of the high priest. Addressing him by his original name likely reminded him of this, just as the double use of his name in Luke 22.31 should have forewarned him of what was coming: "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you . . . but I have prayed for you that your faith fail not." Christ didn't pray that Peter not fall but that his faith not fail. Important lessons can be learned from falling.

"Do you love Me more than these?" would have reminded Peter of his boast, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble" (Matt. 26.33). "Peter, you claimed you were more devoted to me than any of the other apostles; do you still make that claim? Do you love Me more than these [v 2, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John, and two others] you've been fishing with?" Peter, knowing he hadn't backed up his boasts with action (14.15) can only appeal to the Lord's omniscience—"You know that I love You."

There can be a deeper level to us than our behavior would indicate. We can still hold love in our heart even when we're acting unlovingly, and what a comfort it is knowing the Lord sees deeply enough into us to see us that our failure was due to weakness, or cowardice, or selfishness, and not to the fact we don't love Him. Sometimes, all we can do is appeal to the fact that Christ sees the love inside us even when it's hard for us to see it ourselves.

kenny