



The Glendale New Church
845 Congress Ave. Glendale, OH 45246 513-772-1478

The Precursor

September 2018

Our Mission:

The Glendale New Church connects heaven to earth by worshiping the Lord God Jesus Christ; discovering eternal truths in His Word; promoting spiritual awareness; and fostering community

Announcements

Love Over Ego

How do I find my identity? On what qualities to I base true self-esteem? What is the difference between arrogance and genuine confidence? The first of six small group gatherings is Sunday, September 30, 2018. RSVP to Clark (513) 772-1478 \$25 for book and handouts. Check out more information on our website:

www.glendalenewchurch.org

FROM THE WORD

Then Jesus asked them, “Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light will shine. For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.” Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more [Or: “With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you”]. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.” Mark 4:21-25

Everyone has a certain measure that can be made complete. Evil people have a certain measure of evil and falsity. Good people have a certain measure of goodness and truth. This measure that everyone has is made complete in the next life, though their measure may be quite large or rather small. People acquire that measure in the world through the emotions belonging to the love that permeates them. The more anyone has loved evil, and the falsity arising from it, the greater is the measure acquired by them. The more anyone has loved good, and the truth springing from it, the greater is their measure.... This measure is a propensity acquired in the world to receive either evil and falsity or goodness and truth. AC 7984

FROM THE PASTOR

The Gospel of Mark is a simple, plain, straightforward, spoken story of Jesus Christ. And yet in that Gospel there is this invitation for us to look within both the stories that Jesus told, and also within the model that Jesus gives us in the stories, and to see within ourselves how we come to be connected to others and the Lord, as God intended from our creation.

Our lesson is typical of Jesus’ teaching. He proposes a challenging question. For instance, “Is a lamp supposed to be put under a bushel?” And then he tells a parable. And he regularly leaves the reader to answer the question for themselves. He is trying to get his apostles to think in a new and different way. And he does it in a masterful way, using images and experiences that were quite familiar to them. He is teaching new, spiritual principles about connecting with each other and God, challenging us to follow his model.

Jesus said, “To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.” This must have struck

the apostles as a new way of looking at things, as a spiritual principle rather than a merely natural one. Their experience of the marketplace is that you would go with your money to the table of the person selling some grain, for instance, and you would say I need this much money's worth of grain. And the merchant would use a vessel, a measure, and would measure the wheat into it, and you would get that much wheat for that much money. It wasn't the case that you came with your bowl and the deal was that however large your bowl, that's how much you got for whatever amount of money you offered. You didn't provide the measure; the measure was provided by the seller.

Jesus was teaching something new, a spiritual principle. You bring the measure, and in this spiritual world in which God loves you, that measure is filled. So that is the new model. We create a vessel, a measure. God fills it with his love. So the bigger a measure we bring, the more of his unconditional, unceasing, unlimited love, we receive. And this applies to our relationships with others. Can we be the person that fills our loved one's measure, to the brim, with no regard for what measure that person brings? For that is what God does. Bring your measure, it will be filled, it will be completed.

"But," Jesus says, "for those that are not listening, even what little understanding they have, will be taken away from him." Well, that seems harsh, does it not? This is the other side of the coin, and is a hard lesson. Our hearts cry out; I don't want to be that way! I want to show mercy. I want to show grace. I do not want to refrain from giving, much less take away, even from people who are rejecting me!

We all want to be merciful. We want to be kind. We want to give people a chance to succeed, do we not? I really want to give my neighbor the means to rise up out of their distress. Maybe it's information, maybe it's kindness, maybe it's resources. And indeed, we often band together so that we can share resources to lift people into a higher standard of living, or into more knowledge that will be helpful to them, or greater skill that they can then use to lift themselves up. We talk about teaching someone to fish so that they can have food. That's really what we want to do. Surely Jesus has given us an answer, the way to do that, so that people aren't left with nothing.

Pause for a moment. Put aside for a moment the quest of finding a solution. Take a moment to observe what is going on in your mind and heart when you feel that confusion, or that agony, or that wish. I invite you for a moment to notice your plea for an answer to Jesus' question. He doesn't give an answer. No instructions. We're left to our own devices. And next notice that you actually have a complaint about that You want Jesus to have done it differently!

And so now I invite you to stop the complaint and consider, instead, that Jesus is actually offering us the opportunity for unlimited spiritual growth; to create an immeasurably large vessel; for regeneration that we will always be open to, to be completed by the Lord in his love and wisdom. I invite you to feel the joy that prospect

brings to you as a receiver of this Good News. That when you bring your vessel, your measure, it will be completed. Your Creator has already made you a vessel to receive God's infinite life to eternity. And this is possible because you have the choice. You cannot listen. And, sadly, your measure will either be very small or filled with selfishness and worldliness.

Jesus actually describes our initial challenge to, and our resistance to, this circumstance. Jesus says, "Would anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket?" Do we continue to do what is crazy sounding? Do we sometimes do the immediately attractive thing, knowing it is not really good for us long term? And he says: "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." Again, that's a challenge to do life differently. To recognize our resistance to listening.

Our reach for connection, our reach for love, that we are created with and is part of our original form, is undeveloped at first. And sadly, it is too often marred by poor modeling or bad treatment in the early stages of our life. Our God of love and mercy will give us everything we need to succeed in regeneration, in spiritual growth, in connecting in love. The Lord does indeed rescue us, simply because he loves us unconditionally.

And right there, is the parable. The light is seen when it's put on a stand. The secret is revealed, when it's believed and lived. The measure is filled when it is brought to the table. As Jesus says in Luke chapter 6: "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The measure you give will be the measure you get back."

God's reach for us to love us and care for us is constant and unfailing. Pay close attention to what you hear, for the closer you listen to him, the more understanding you will be given. And you will receive even more. The measure you bring will be larger and larger, and it will always be completed. People whose desire has been for goodness and truth, have their measure made complete with forms of good and truths, which is the source of our own peace, and the experience of joy, as we love others and God.

The encouragement is to seek that secure connection with your fellow human beings, and you will find it with the Lord. And the cycle of love will be complete, and ever developing. And you will live the spiritual meaning of the parables. The task that you can take on is to listen for the goodness and truth in another person, in what they're saying and doing, from a heart of love for them. And then, indeed, you will experience, that full, large, completed measure of attachment with your God.

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

Glendale New Church

Sep 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
2 11am - NCoM Worship	3	4 6pm - Yoga	5 9:30am - Yoga	6 6pm - Yoga	7	8 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
9 11am - Worship with 12pm - Luncheon	10	11 6pm - Yoga	12 9:30am - Yoga	13 6pm - Yoga	14	15 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
16 11am - NCoM Worship	17	18 6pm - Yoga	19 9:30am - Yoga 6pm - Yoga	20 5pm - Good Life Networks	21	22 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
23 11am - NCoM Worship	24	25 6pm - Yoga	26 9:30am - Yoga	27 6pm - Yoga	28	29 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
30 9:30am - Swedenborg 11am - NCoM Worship 1pm - "Love Over Ego"	1	2	3	4	5	6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2 Dedication Day, 1861 6pm - Yoga	3 9:30am - Yoga	4 6pm - Yoga	5	6 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
7 11am - Worship with 12pm - Luncheon 1pm - "Love Over Ego"	8	9 6pm - Yoga	10 9:30am - Yoga	11 6pm - Yoga	12	13 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
14 11am - NCoM Worship 1pm - "Love Over Ego"	15	16 6pm - Yoga	17 9:30am - Yoga 6pm - Yoga	18 5pm - Good Life Networks	19	20 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
21 11am - NCoM Worship 1pm - "Love Over Ego"	22	23 6pm - Yoga	24 9:30am - Yoga	25 6pm - Yoga	26	27 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
28 11am - NCoM Worship 1pm - "Love Over Ego"	29	30 6pm - Yoga	31 9:30am - Yoga	1	2	3

Schedule

September 2018

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
9/2	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
9/9	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00
9/16	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
9/23	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
9/30	NCOM worship @ 11:00 – Small Group Intro 1:00

October 2018

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
10/7	NCOM worship @ 11:00 – Small Group 1:00
10/14	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am – Small Group 1:00
10/21	NCOM worship @ 11:00 – Small Group 1:00
10/28	NCOM worship @ 11:00 – Small Group 1:00

Please join us for worship!

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