



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

The Precursor

February 2019

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

Holy Supper Service

Holy Supper will be offered at the close of our service on Sunday, February 10. All are invited to participate.

FROM THE WORD

Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet, pleading fervently with him. "My little daughter is dying," he said. "Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live." Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him.... [Then] messengers arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. They told him, "Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now." But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith." Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn't let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John (the brother of James). When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing. He went inside and asked, "Why all this commotion and weeping? The child isn't dead; she's only asleep." The crowd laughed at him. But he made them all leave, and he took the girl's father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. Holding her hand, he said to her, "Talitha Cumi," which means "Little girl, get up!" And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! They were overwhelmed and totally amazed. Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone what had happened, and then he told them to give her something to eat. Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

[In the spiritual world] those who touch each other communicate the state of their life to each other. If this is done by the hands, everything of the life is communicated, because the hands [communicate] power, which is the active of life which affects others. From Heavenly Secrets §10023

The Lord holds people in the Freedom of thinking. And when unhindered by outward bonds, which are the fear of the law and for life, and the fear of the loss of reputation, of honor, and of gain, He keeps them in the Freedom of doing. And through Freedom He bends them away from evil. And through Freedom He bends them to good, leading them so gently and silently that the person knows no otherwise than that everything proceeds from themselves. Thus the Lord, in Freedom, instills and cultivates goodness in the very life of the person, which goodness remains to eternity. From Heavenly Secrets §9587

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus' words seem so trite: "Don't be afraid. Just have faith." A platitude that does not recognize the struggle to stand up to the constant stream of fear mongering we are experiencing. So, considering the source, I pause to consider what more complex spiritual principle is Jesus describing in such a short motto. We are considering here how this must describe God's reach to connect to us as spiritual, human, beings. And Jesus must be modeling how we respond and welcome the connection with our creator who loves us unconditionally.

If I am Jairus, then these few words are intended to reach to a part of me represented

by Jairus. He was the most important church leader in the entire town. He would have been respected as a devout man, a good business man, with an equally devout family, whose life mission was the wellbeing of the Synagogue and all its people. He would have been a defender of the faith and the Synagogue against all threats, internal and external.

There is a part of me, an extension of my more hidden ego, that vocally defends my sense of self, my rightness, and nurtures my unique self in the world as I know it. Humans are wired to defend themselves against all threats to their survival and development. This preserves humanity, and it motivates us to extend our influence. Naturally, we make communities and babies. Spiritually, we are designed to love others, spread our wisdom, and share our goodness.

Sadly, we have a nature that does not at first experience a connection to God, which would give us assurance of abundance and eternal life. At first, even in a healthy supportive family, we experience scarcity and isolation. And so God makes sure we have this drive for connection, an attachment with another that feels like abundance without limit – love for another who loves us! This leads us to develop spiritually and so connect with God.

Jairus models for us our thoughts, feelings, words and actions when we, perhaps nobly, stick to our way of being and doing even if it becomes selfish, worldly and isolating. I can become so attached to an idea or a feeling, that I willingly destroy a relationship in defending it. So far as people's opinions, the law, or my financial welfare allows, I feel quite free to protect my way of being, thinking and feeling. When Jesus did this, he was modeling a secure attachment with his God, and so an authentic sharing of wisdom and goodness with people. He was so well connected with God that he could channel life back into a seemingly dead body. Death becomes a kind of sleep rather than the end of all being, which many people in the church then believed it did.

So now put yourself into Jairus' shoes. The shock of his daughter in the process of dying, broke the grip the merely external and traditional ideas of his faith had on his mind. His mind was free to consider the larger, deeper, even spiritual, view of life. In that moment, all Jairus' prejudices were forgotten! He put off the dignity of his office to run one who was a known threat to the Synagogue, and fall at his feet.

He put off pride to ask for help because a part of him realized his thoughts and feelings had been twisted away from a connection with God. In what must have looked like a foolish casting aside of all that he held dear, he snubbed, discounted, and disregarded his friends and family to seek out Jesus. I can imagine he started to delegate the task, and either no one was willing, or he realized he could not ask another to do what his own heart had become free to do in this moment of anguish.

What happens to you when you realize you have believed a falsity? Or when you discover your feeling – likely anger, hatred or disdain – was misplaced? I experience that part of me that believes this life is all there is – that there is nothing after death because this part of me is only connected to the earth – believes that I am in some measure dead. For my mistake has ruined it all and there is no going back. Forgiveness does not exist in physics. This part of me can break under the weight of despair.

But God has given me another part, another living aspect of my life, which appears when my merely natural part is broken. And this happens automatically, because, while God is omnipotent and omniscient, he has instilled freedom at the core of my being, untouched by that impermanent nature of earth. Unbeknownst to me, God reaches out to me with his

inexorable love, which frees me up to listen to his voice through that part of me now letting go of merely earthly principles (which, no matter how noble, limit the depth of any relationship), to reach out to other people for a spiritual connection, which is the very activity of my life.

The imminent dying of the child might be an experience that has spurred us on. Perhaps you have noticed, as I have, that child-like new ideas and excitement are regularly lost in the crowd of tasks, responsibilities, and comfortable ways of thinking and feeling. We might leave a worship service, or finish a book, or be moved by a movie, and yet we lose the energy it gave us. Deeply impactful, spiritual ideas and passions, can be threatened by an unconscious, and so indescribable, wasting disease. The new desire loses its strength, and as it were falls asleep. It was there, and still is, but appears lost. Our grief cries out for a remedy! We must be in action to save this source of goodness and joy.

These intertwined stories in the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 5, of the old woman who touched him, and the child model for us God's attention to us as individuals in every and any state of life. Jesus knew that a specific woman had touched him; and he immediately went to a specific ailing child. We are being told here that God's love is very specific and personal. He does not establish a secure attachment with a group, even a holy one committed to a life of perfect righteousness. All his relationships are one on one.

When we discover that we cannot heal our relationships with God and others on our own, it makes sense that we bewail our loss of empowerment. Human beings first acquire a sense of self during childhood. Then there is the phase of self-centeredness and selfishness before the formation of a spiritual self that then provides the ground in which the seed of spiritual love can grow, the love for God and others. A secure attachment is the achievement of a relationship of our adult, authentic self with another person – and especially with God – which is the completion of the goal of love, the continuance of the life of all that is created.

Even as we feel like our self is dead, we are also created with a sense that love heals. Every human has the capacity to hope for this love, this connection. Certainly, too often children are wounded and their capacity to hope is less than ideal. But the resiliency of people who have had traumatic lives is evidence for the existence of this fundamental nature of the human being. So while there are times we do not feel loving and wise, righteous or at peace, those spiritual states have been implanted in us from our creation.

Then God comes to us speaking in our own language. Indeed, the Gospel account, written in Greek, changes to the Aramaic people normally spoke when quoting Jesus: "Little girl, wake up!" This is a powerful and tender witness to the immediate presence of God's unconditional love. And then we experience the deep, spiritual, living connection with our God and all other living creatures on the planet that is the joy promised us from our creation. "Don't be afraid. Just have faith."

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

513 284 1236

www.clarkechols.com

Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

Glendale New Church

Feb 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
3 11am - NCoM Worship	4	5 5:45pm - Yoga	6 9:30am - Yoga	7 6pm - Yoga	8	9 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
10 11am - NCoM Worship 11am - Worship with 12pm - Luncheon	11	12 5:45pm - Yoga	13 9:30am - Yoga	14 6pm - Yoga	15	16 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
17 11am - NCoM Worship	18	19 5:45pm - Yoga	20 9:30am - Yoga 6pm - Yoga	21 6pm - Yoga	22	23 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
24 11am - NCoM Worship	25	26 5:45pm - Yoga	27 9:30am - Yoga	28 6pm - Yoga	1	2

Schedule

February 2019

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
2/3	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
2/10	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00
2/17	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
2/24	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

March 2019

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
3/3	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
3/10	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00
3/17	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
3/24	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
3/31	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

Please join us for worship!

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845 Congress Ave
Glendale, OH 45246
(513) 772-1478
GlendaleNewChurch@gmail.com

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