



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

The Precursor

March 2020

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

Friday, March 13
Trillium Small Group
Experiences
Meet & Greet

We have invited representatives of a variety of organizations that offer people spiritual growth experiences. Come and have a taste of our Trillium Small Group model of transformative experiences!

FROM THE WORD

Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him. Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened!" Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly! Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news. They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak." Mark 7:31-37

The "deaf man" symbolizes those who do not obey because they have no understanding of truth. A "speech impediment" symbolizes their difficulty in confessing the Lord and the truth of the church. The "ears" opened by the Lord symbolize the perception of truth and obedience; and the "tongue" whose bond was loosed by the Lord symbolizes the confession of the Lord and of the truths of the church. From *Apocalypse Explained* §455:21

"In the Word 'hearing' means much more than simply hearing with the ear. Besides this it means receiving things in the memory and learning them, also receiving them in the understanding and believing them, and in addition receiving them in obedience and doing them. The reason why all this is meant by 'hearing' is that speech heard by the ear passes on into a person's inner sight, which is the understanding, and so is received within the person. Then what is seen there is either retained, believed, or obeyed, according to how compelling the reasons for it are or else how far the person has been swayed by others." *Secrets of Heaven* §9311

FROM THE PASTOR

Tyre to Sidon to Decapolis and around the Sea of Galilee is a circuitous route and a long journey for Jesus and his retinue. We can imagine many days and nights of talking, miracles and bonding over the hardships of the travel, the sharing of life's stories, and managing the crowds. Right after this trip, Peter would acknowledge Jesus as the long-promised Messiah.

As the relationships developed among the disciples, and between each of them and Jesus, we can imagine they were becoming secure, feeling safe with each other. Their anxiety is diminishing. They are experiencing deeper connections. Their minds and hearts, now calmed and feeling attuned to each other and to Jesus, could be open to new ideas, and be humble when challenged. Many of these people would come to value their spiritual life so much more than their earthly life that they would die as a proclamation of their faith. This experience of a secure attachment created by Christian living is certainly one of the reasons the practices have remained alive around the globe for over 2000 years.

This story teaches us two lessons in how to establish secure attachments in our relationships. First, Jesus models the way to fully attend to another person; and then he promotes a life of self-observation over self-promotion.

First, when the deaf man is brought to him by a group of people, he takes the man aside, showing individual attention and consideration for the man's feelings as the man may have felt embarrassed by his condition. This is notable because in the past Jesus very publicly fed thousands in one miracle! And a crowd watched as he brought Lazarus back to life. And then there are many instances like this, in which the miracle happens in relative private. We get a sense that Jesus prized such quiet connections.

I see Jesus here modeling full attention to another person, including their disabilities: in this case, a metaphor for one's inability to hear other people's love because of their own woundedness, and a person's inability to say how they feel because their woundedness blocks their consciousness of their emotions. A secure attachment can be created only by attending to the whole person, accepting them as they are, while modeling transparency and respect.

The Heavenly Doctrines point out that deafness in the Word symbolizes our life when we do not know the truth. Perhaps we misunderstood a principle our teachers were trying to instill. Perhaps we were lied to as we grew from infancy to childhood. Perhaps childhood trauma created a false narrative in our memory that protected our spirit.

An example might be a person becoming arrogant because they were encouraged to believe their creed was the truth. Another example would be a person who thinks poorly of themselves because they were repeatedly told they were stupid. And the worst case is when a child is abused and the brain and mind create barriers that protect the spirit, thus blocking consciousness of emotions and a strong sense of self.

A safe, secure and emotionally transparent relationship miraculously heals all these dis-eases of the heart, mind, and body. Such a relationship can be established in a few weeks, or it may take years. But when we adopt Jesus' model in our individual relationships, healing happens. And this is not because we have some super power. Like Jesus, all we have is love, which is actually God's love, divine love, and we are being a means for the flow of that love through us, into the world, where opened hearts and minds will be touched and healed.

The second, less obvious lesson we get from this story is symbolized by Jesus' plea that everyone keeps this miracle to themselves. I have long wondered why Jesus repeatedly makes this plea and have heard a variety of answers. Here is one that makes the most complete sense to me.

Jesus knows the merely human condition because he is living it. Yet he has a divine soul, which gives him the perfect and unique opportunity to experience the

ultimate spiritual growth – becoming the divine human, and the very fullest expression of selflessness – the absolute oneness of heart and mind, of love and wisdom. You and I can thus experience every level of spiritual growth and selflessness up to, but not including, Jesus' experience. For we are regenerated, we are transformed. But Jesus was glorified. It is the great mystery of Jesus glorification and oneness with God that urges us on and fulfills our deepest need for connection. While we become angels, he became wholly Divine and is rightly called God. He calls us to transformation, and we have learned from him that there is no end to the possibilities. And we know this for our individual, eternal selves. That is the secure attachment Jesus is offering us.

We are told that the people saw that all he did was good, hearkening back to the garden of Eden before evil and disabilities had been introduced into the world. The people felt it in their hearts and bodies. Of course they would want to tell all their relatives and friends. This is the Messiah come at last! They felt they were on the verge of freedom from the occupying Romans, and full membership in a church that had become elitist. I imagine many of them would shout "Look at me! See what Jesus Christ has done for me! You can have it, too!"

Jesus must have experienced this urge. But for us unspiritual people, this urge is inevitably followed by the normal, merely human, gradual adaptation the fallen spirit makes from promoting the message to promoting the messenger. I am sure that Jesus noticed it happening but stopped the thought, acknowledged the urge, observed the process, and then felt free to let it go even though he still wanted to promote himself. We can assume he felt this urge every moment of his life, deep in his spirit, because his victory over self-promotion is the last thing he said as he died: "Into your hands I commend (release) my spirit."

There is nothing inherently bad or wrong about this inevitable process. It is the created and ordained way of our transformation. It is the universal experience of the path to spiritual growth. The key is to be, like Jesus, aware of it so that we are not unconsciously driven by it into mere self-promotion. Jesus models an attitude of continuing self-observation. Of course, we want to share our insights with our loved ones. However, our merely naturally-minded human condition causes us inevitably to become arrogant spokespeople for our truth, or fixated merely on the story and not on obedience to the lesson of the story.

Let us be awake, conscious, self-aware, remembering, and mindful, that our secure attachment to God, through living the model Jesus Christ gives us in the Gospels, will transform us, regenerate us, so that we will not only hear his voice of love and wisdom, we will be able to helpfully and effectively share it with others.

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

www.clarkechols.com

513 284 1236

Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Glendale New Church

Mar 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

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

Glendale New Church

Apr 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 9:30am - Yoga	2 6pm - Yoga	3	4 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
5 11am - Palm Sunday w/ 12pm - Luncheon 4pm - Yoga	6	7	8 9:30am - Yoga	9 6pm - Yoga	10 7pm - Good Friday Holy	11 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
12 11am - Easter worship with 4pm - Yoga	13	14	15 9:30am - Yoga	16 6pm - Yoga	17	18 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
19 4pm - Yoga	20	21	22 9:30am - Yoga	23 6pm - Yoga	24	25 5:30pm - Pastor Don's
26 2pm - John Denver Sing 4pm - Yoga	27	28	29 9:30am - Yoga	30 6pm - Yoga	1	2

Schedule

March 2020

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
3/1	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
3/8	Glendale New Church Service @ 11:00 am - Lunch & Meeting 12:00
3/15	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
3/22	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
3/29	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30

April 2020

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
4/5	NCOM Palm Sunday worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
4/10	Good Friday Worship Service
4/12	Glendale New Church Easter Service @ 11:00 am – Lunch 12:00
4/19	NCOM worship @ 11:00 - Work Party 12:30
4/26	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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