



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

The Precursor

March 2021

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

There will be Worship events for Palm Sunday and Easter. Watch your emails for announcements. Whether we will have an in-person Holy Supper is still to be determined.

FROM THE WORD

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.” Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said. “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.” Mark 10:23-31

People who believe only in what they can grasp [with their senses, inevitably fall] into error, human nature being what it is. Our thinking is purely earthbound, body-centered, and matter-based, because it is formed out of earthly, bodily, and materialistic notions, which cling tenaciously to it. Those notions form the foundation and resting place of the concepts that make up our thinking. So to think and reason about the Lord on the basis of such concepts is to lead ourselves into error and perversion. It is as impossible for us to construct a faith for ourselves out of these things as it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle....It is easy to tell [when one] has adopted the faith produced by neighborly love. They do not debate religious truth but affirm it and also confirm it by the evidence of the senses, of organized knowledge, and of rational analysis, so far as they can. As soon as any obscurity interferes, they reject whatever they cannot perceive

and refuse to let it bring them into doubt. What they are capable of grasping, they assert, is extremely limited, so that it would be insane to view something as untrue simply because they do not comprehend it. These are the people under the influence of charity. Secrets of Heaven §1072

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus' relationship with people, as witnessed in the Gospel stories, is based on being truthful. People who are truthful with each other are safe with each other. Of course, if the truth is hard – like pointing out the folly of another's beliefs – the message is heard because there is mutual trust and respect. Both feel safe in their love for each other.

Jesus models how we can create such relationships by telling the truth. Just prior to this story, Jesus had told a young, rich, righteous man that to be fit for heaven he had to sell everything he had and join the others is walking with Jesus. The man went away sad. The hard truth, Jesus here says, is that such attachments will turn my heart away from love for God and my fellow human being.

Before you glibly agree with this obvious truth, first consider two circumstances. The first is that the Apostles did not know this, and second, it is still hard to let go.

Jesus, as the Redeemer who is opening people's spiritual minds, and revealing deeper spiritual realities, and therefore changing the way people achieve righteousness, is telling the truth. And it is upsetting the Apostles lives. The Apostles believed that being righteous – obeying all the rules – set them up to be blessed by God. The fact that they do not now have material blessings is not their fault, they might have thought, but the result of the greed and corruption of their leaders and the Romans. They thought riches were a sign of being a good person, blessed by God. Jesus is saying riches condemn. This breaks open their hearts and minds to the underlying reality: striving to gain and hold riches, people were being selfish and materialistic.

Such “riches” keeps them from the kingdom. Not knowing any other way of achieving righteousness, Peter speaks for them all: “If that is true, we are doomed!”

Today, being as privileged as I am, I do not have to accumulate riches to secure my wellbeing. It is so easy to feel righteous: I have a home, food, health, etc. I have been a good person, productive, caring, engaged. And yet my view of myself and others, and God, is easily distorted by my attachment to my ego and my driving need to be right (the 21st Century “righteousness”).

If the inner, mental, kingdom I have built with my ego-wealth satisfies me, then I will not give it up to get an authentic spiritual life – “heaven.” When a fear of loss rises out of my merely worldly self, the ingrained patterns of self-protection, and its thoughts of fairness and feelings of persecution, will interfere with the flow of divine love. If I do not catch this process, I will walk away, feeling sad.

Jesus demonstrates how the divine truth makes it possible for us to feel safe and loved. Of course, there will be blessings as we let go of the fear of loss of material things. And there will be actual, eternal, blessings. Not of more things, but of heaven: peace, security, satisfaction, hope – hope for more, and more secure, connections – all the types of relationships represented by all the types of family relationships Jesus lists. This is not a reward to be earned. This new spiritual state is founded on the spiritual truth, the eternal reality, is a gift we can accept. That is, when we loosen our grasp on our ego and our material stuff. It is this new spiritual condition that gives us the capacity to withstand the inevitable feeling of persecution that then happens.

Our task is to watch Jesus as he asserts spiritual truth, even when it contradicts our most cherished and long-held beliefs about what makes us happy and blessed. Make note of our inner reaction, and begin to imagine letting it go. Gradually, we will have experiences of the impossibility of our achieving our idea of “heaven.” And in those moments, we will experience the secure connection with God, and the possibility of divine love and truth giving us the blessing. We will easily pass through the eye of the needle!

Clark Echols, MDiv, PC

www.clarkechols.com

513 284 1236

Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	1	2 5:45pm - Yoga	3	4	5	6 10am - Yoga
7	8	9 5:45pm - Yoga	10	11	12 4pm - Wedding Rehearsal	13 10am - Yoga 1pm - Coon/Lowe wedding
14 11am - Online Worship	15	16 5:45pm - Yoga	17	18	19	20 10am - Yoga
21	22	23 5:45pm - Yoga	24	25	26	27 10am - Yoga
28 Palm Sunday	29	30 5:45pm - Yoga	31	1	2	3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2 Good Friday	3 10am - Yoga
4 Easter Sunday	5	6 5:45pm - Yoga	7	8	9	10 10am - Yoga
11 11am - Online Worship	12	13 5:45pm - Yoga	14	15	16	17 10am - Yoga
18	19	20 5:45pm - Yoga	21	22	23	24 10am - Yoga
25	26	27 5:45pm - Yoga	28	29	30	1

Schedule

March 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
3/7	Work Party any time
3/14	11:00 am – Online Worship
3/21	Work Party any time
3/28	Work Party any time

April 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
4/4	Work Party any time
4/11	11:00 am – Online Worship
4/18	Work Party any time
4/25	Work Party any time

Keep calm and carry on!

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

March 2021