



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

# The Precursor

April 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*

Join the online Easter Service, starting at 10:30 AM.

If you didn't get the email with the link, please email Clark at [glendalenewchurch@gmail.com](mailto:glendalenewchurch@gmail.com)

## FROM THE WORD

They were now on the way up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were filled with awe, and the people following behind were overwhelmed with fear. Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus once more began to describe everything that was about to happen to him. "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be delivered to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die and deliver him over to the Romans. They will mock him, spit on him, flog him with a whip, and kill him, but after three days he will rise again." Mark 10:32-34

As with every emotion, being afraid or fear includes many things within it, even though it looks to be simple and without parts. That is to say, this fear includes loss of life, or reputation, or position, or gain in worldly things, but also loss of good and truth, and so of life, in heavenly things. And because it includes these, it also includes aversion to those things which strive to destroy them; and this is all the more the case when an affection itself for what is good and true exists with a person. Such aversion is the opposite of the affection and therefore 'being afraid' here means feeling aversion. The greatness of the Lord's aversion is clear from the strong feeling that doctrine should not be debased by anything of a rational or factual kind. Secrets of Heaven §2543

## FROM THE PASTOR

There are moments in our lives when we just "get it." We have a visceral (a physiological) reaction to a realization. There is the thought that comes to us, like a light bulb going on. There is an emotion, usually gladness, and a smile spontaneously comes to our face. Many wise people suggest that we can normalize this experience. Swedenborg, Buddha, Gurdjieff, Jung, all postulate the mental and spiritual state of "perception," (as Swedenborg calls it), as a state of ease and clarity that relaxes the body. Our review of the Gospel of Mark arises out of the notion that the human being is

designed by God to achieve a connection with God, a relationship of mutual love, which is a consistent (if not constant, which it may be!) state of perception.

The journey we make to this spiritual way of being is life-long. That is, perception is possible first in adulthood, and then it is an ongoing effort to continue its eternal development. Along the way, we are encouraged to continue to listen, and to learn the lessons our living affords us. It is a common experience that we have to hear something three times before it contributes to a new state of perception. (Or it might be seven times! Or it might be a third person telling us! Surely every reader has experienced someone else giving a loved one the same message we have and the loved one then hears it, they think, for the first time!).

The immediacy of the impending crisis described passage we are considering is rightly the usual focus. But in this treatment of the Gospel, our premise is that Jesus is making a reach for connection, not arousing fear to alert his followers. The assumption here is that the Disciples are ordinary people who are experiencing advances in spiritual life that are unprecedented in human history, and Jesus is connecting with them at the level of their new awareness. The people on the road are already afraid. The realization that they are headed for Jerusalem and a showdown has spread among them, and gives them, more or less consciously, a sense of impending doom. Jesus here tells them, for the third time, that he will be murdered and will come back to life.

When we are in a state of perception, fear is the experience of averting our attention from thoughts, feelings and sensations that would destroy our perception if we believed the thoughts, affirmed the emotions or held onto the sensations. Jesus is revealing to us a particular moment on the spiritual journey to perception that we can notice and so avoid being stopped in our journey.

For me, the thought that I am right about

something and that it is my duty to let others know, will justify my cutting someone off or discounting their beliefs. The joy of being right will harden my heart to others' joy in their beliefs. The pleasure – the boost of my brain's reward hormones – of being seen as being right will dull my sense to others' pain of rejection.

This moment on the journey to perception is only one milepost on the road. It will happen again and again. And there will be a final death of my egotistical grip on my beliefs, feelings and even my physical life. It is vital that I hear Jesus saying that this death will produce a new life. Actually realizing this fact will allow me to avert myself from the ideas, emotions and sensations that threaten to stop my journey.

Of course I fear that threat! Every normal human being is designed by God to have this aversion. And while I do not fully grasp what Jesus was going through, it seems to me he also felt this aversion. Indeed, I feel a strong and deep connection with Jesus by hearing that he feels this fear. His knowing precisely what was going to happen – a knowing my frail, finite mind is blessed not to have! – does not mitigate his feeling of aversion produced by the certainty of suffering.

Jesus does not blindly or casually accept suffering. Suffering here is not some random experience of being a victim of torture. Suffering is, first, living the Gospel, and then being attacked for taking a principled stand which is contrary to the cultural norms about what constitutes authentic righteousness. Like Jesus, we need to intentionally choose to go to Jerusalem. Only then will a state of perception, with ease of heart, clarity of mind, and confidence in our step, be experienced. We will continue to journey toward the death of the ego, feeling fear, with aversion to all that would destroy our new state of perception.

Jesus is modeling how we can achieve a secure attachment with God, a connection of mutual love. When I see him taking the next step, and the next, and the next, toward Jerusalem and the completion of his Divine plan for our salvation, my heart is strengthened. He is modeling what a person who has a secure connection with his Father, and with me, will do. I continue my journey because I want that connection, too!

**Clark Echols, MDiv, PC**

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2 <b>Good Friday</b>	3 10am - Yoga
4 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 11am - Easter Sunday -	5	6 5:45pm - Yoga	7	8	9	10 10am - Yoga
11 11am - No NCoM Service 11am - Online Worship 7:30pm - ES Study	12	13 5:45pm - Yoga	14	15	16	17 10am - Yoga
18 11am - Online Worship -	19	20 5:45pm - Yoga	21	22	23 6pm - Rehearsal	24 10am - Yoga 5:30pm - Little/Stewart
25 11am - No NCoM Service 7:30pm - ES Study	26	27 5:45pm - Yoga	28	29	30	1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 10am - Yoga
2 11am - Online Worship -	3	4 5:45pm - Yoga	5	6	7	8 10am - Yoga
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16 11am - Online Worship -	17	18 5:45pm - Yoga	19	20	21	22 10am - Yoga
23 11am - No NCoM Service 7:30pm - ES Study	24	25 5:45pm - Yoga	26	27	28	29 10am - Yoga 3pm - Scherman/Gordon
30 11am - Online Worship	31	1	2	3	4	5

## *Schedule*

April 2021

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>4/2</b>	<b>Good Friday Holy Supper Service at 6:30pm</b>
<b>4/4</b>	<b>Easter Service Online at 10:30am</b>
<b>4/11</b>	11:00 am – Online Worship
<b>4/18</b>	Work Party any time
<b>4/25</b>	Work Party any time

May 2021

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Worship Service (type and time)</b>
<b>5/2</b>	Work Party any time
<b>5/9</b>	11:00 am – Online Worship
<b>5/16</b>	Work Party any time
<b>5/23</b>	Work Party any time
<b>5/30</b>	Work Party any time

*Keep calm and carry on!*

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