



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

The Precursor

June 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will mark New Church Day, together with the New Church of Montgomery, on Sunday, June 20 with an in person (outdoor weather permitting) celebration!

Bring something to grill and a side dish to share and we will have a picnic!

FROM THE WORD

Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My Rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road. Mark 10:46-52

A "blind" person is someone with wrong ideas. Secrets of Heaven §9086

Acknowledgment of the Lord is the first thing of all spiritual life and is the most essential feature of the Church. No one can receive any truth of faith or good of love at all from heaven unless they acknowledge the Lord. The Lord often says that whoever believes in the Lord has eternal life, and whoever does not believe in the Lord does not have it. But at the same time the Lord also teaches that only those who live according to the Lord's Commandments have faith, because it is the life which results from living the Commandments that comprises their faith. This acknowledgment the Lord and that all salvation comes from the Lord constitute the origin of the life from God with a person. Secrets of Heaven §10083:5

FROM THE PASTOR

Two thousand years ago, blindness suggested a lack of righteousness. The shunned person was left dependent on others, likely reduced to begging. Judgmental people would see such

people as nuisances at best. This is why, as a beloved Rabbi and now famous healer, was walking along with people he was teaching, they would complain they couldn't hear what he was saying over this blind beggar's cries for help.

I want to notice when I am complaining about something. I want to know if my initial reaction to interference is the product of my being judgmental. The human brain is wired by God to react to barriers to information that may be critical to survival. The impulse to end the interference is key to our survival as a species. However, control of such impulses is a fundamental feature of spiritually awake human beings. Jesus is here modeling how I can advance my spiritual development by responding to being annoyed from a place of spiritual awareness and acceptance.

Upon hearing the man's cries he stops what he is doing so that he might recognize the man's plight. We could image that if Jesus discovered that it was a privileged religious leader accusing him, Jesus' reaction would have been judgmental! But Jesus has now developed a trained ear, sensitive to the cries of someone in emotional pain. Jesus' first reaction is to listen for the voice of the wound that is crying out for healing. That is the advanced stage of humanness that we all can aspire to.

When we read the story, we know that "blindness" is a metaphor for ignorance. Not evilness or stupidity. When we don't know something, we are blind. As Helen Keller wrote, there are worse things than being blind: "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." My ignorance will certainly hold me back in my material and spiritual development. Yet the deeper task is to use the knowledge I have to seek the truth that will enlighten me and give me a vision of goodness in myself and in others. I am to seek the God of love that is the source of all wisdom by acknowledging that the flow of God's divine love, incarnate in Jesus, manifested in all humans doing good, will heal me and save me.

What stops us in this journey? And specifically, where do we learn to be critical of ignorance? Why are we inclined to dismiss or disparage the ignorant? Why do we deflect from our own ignorance by pointing it out in others? Why are we so afraid of ignorance that we get angry when confronted by others' or our own ignorance? Why do we get defensive?

Jesus models two ways of being that illustrate a reach for connection from a healthy sense

of self-worth and power. First, he had become sensitive to the spiritual and emotional pain of others, often hidden within a complaint and anger, underneath of which he saw their fear. Second, he gave them what he already had – a sight of the healing truth that the man's faith would lead him in his life to goodness.

For me to develop that sensitivity to others' pain I have to let go of the need to judge other people. This is scary! How do I protect myself if I am not constantly assessing? Jesus, and modern brain studies, tell us that we have to risk being human. We have to try reaching for connection rather than judging. God's design is for our success and eternal well being. And to achieve that we have to reach for connection on our own, experiencing ownership and freedom when we do. So I have to risk my very real but transient physical safety for the goal of spiritual, eternal, wisdom and love.

I am saddened and frustrated that Jesus' teaching about faith has been perverted to mean "blind faith." The good news is that during the last 200 years more and more people are rejecting this falsity. The bad news is that they are also rejecting the healing power of faith in a God of love as incarnated in Jesus Christ because his teaching is said to be this "faith alone." Modern brain research has confirmed what Jesus is actually teaching: that the brain activated by a desire for loving connection manages fear and disappointment. Past negative experiences and the biological impulse for safety do not stop a person who is secure in their sense of self and worth. Such a living faith that accepts the mystery of life will be a foundation for letting go of judgmentalism and materialism. We all can have such a faith that, as Jesus says repeatedly, will heal us and save us, allowing us to proceed on the journey of life in peace.

Our task is to practice listening for the pain underneath complaints – ours and others – and so respond with love that accepts the person as they are and accepts ourselves as we are. God's love will then flow through our souls and we will be bringers of peace and joy, modeling the peace and assurance of a secure attachment with our God and so with other people.

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

www.trilliumsmallgroupcenter.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 5:45pm - Yoga	2	3	4	5 10am - Yoga
6 11am - Online Worship -	7	8 5:45pm - Yoga	9	10	11	12 10am - Yoga
13 11am - No NCoM Service 11am - Online Worship 7:30pm - ES Study	14	15 5:45pm - Yoga	16	17	18	19 10am - Yoga
20 11am - NC Day Celebration	21	22 5:45pm - Yoga	23	24	25	26 10am - Yoga
27 11am - No NCoM Service 7:30pm - ES Study	28	29 5:45pm - Yoga	30	1	2	3

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Schedule

June 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
6/6	11:00 am – Online Worship
6/13	11:00 am – Online Worship
6/20	11:00 am – New Church Day Celebration
6/27	Work Party any time

July 2021

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
7/4	11:00 am – Online Worship
7/11	11:00 am – Online Worship
7/18	11:00 am – Online Worship
7/25	Work Party any time

Keep calm and carry on!

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