



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

The Precursor

March 2022

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

We are planning in-person Palm Sunday, Good Friday Holy Supper, and Easter Services! We will be reaching out to find out how many will be able to attend.

FROM THE WORD

Later, as Jesus was teaching the people in the Temple, he asked, “Why do the teachers of religious law claim that the Messiah is the son of David? For David himself, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit in the place of honor at my right hand
until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.’

Since David himself called the Messiah ‘my Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?” The large crowd listened to him with great delight. Jesus also taught: “Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces and they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. Yet they cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be more severely punished.” Mark 12: 35-40

To the extent that we are focused on loving the Lord and loving our neighbor, our inner nature is spiritual. We are thinking and intending from that nature and are speaking and acting from it as well. To the extent that we are focused on loving ourselves and loving the world, though, our inner nature is earthly. We are thinking and intending from that nature and are speaking and acting from it as well. New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Teachings §42

FROM THE PASTOR

One of the ways to describe human advancement is that we change from thinking naturally to thinking spiritually. Looking back I can identify changes of my mind. Sometimes it was rather sudden. Most of the time it was an evolution. I know this is common among human beings. The possibility of developing new ways of seeing ourselves and the world is an aspect of our humanity. Mark here tells of a moment of change in the Gospel

story. Chapters 11 and 12 includes stories of Jesus' defiance and challenge of authority. And then Mark tells us that Jesus got through to one scribe, which likely represents many more who changed their minds about Jesus. And now we are told that Jesus realized that he had made his point: He reaches to connect with people on a spiritual level. He speaks to the new, spiritual view, that some seem to have, that he is here to do purely spiritual work, not a political one. He reaches out to connect with the evolving state of mind of his listeners.

Jesus does this by bridging the old with the new understanding he is teaching. Jesus refers to a key teaching which he says has been wrongly used by the Scribes. How can God's anointed Son be the son of David, as the Scribes assert? Rather, the Messiah is even David's Lord. Jesus asserts that this truth has been rejected in order to assert the supremacy of the priesthood. And, further, it has been used by power-seeking people to secularize and militarize the Messiah. Jesus is giving a new teaching that rejects both of these dogmas.

Jesus is warning those of us who wish to live the model of secure attachment to beware the normal inclination to survive by acting like all other people are a threat to our life, which causes us to seek to control other people and put them under our authority. This is what happened over many generations as the Scribes, perhaps naively at first, thought that such power and supremacy was the way to restore God's order.

Jesus is asserting rather that God is pure spiritual love, not earthly political power, and does not put anyone in second place – merely a “son.” To expect the Messiah to make the nation supreme over all others is a diminution of God's power and a subverting of God's mission. For the Scribes listening to Jesus, this is a radical change of mind, from thinking naturally to thinking spiritually.

Jesus is asking us today to do a systematic and ongoing observations of both the roots and the outcomes of our words and actions in order to notice when we are thinking naturally rather than spiritually. If we are serious about being human beings, if we choose to model ourselves after Jesus, if we wish to have a secure relationship with God and other people, then we need to vigorously call ourselves out when we use our knowledge to gain supremacy in any way.

Our Savior is anointed by God, is divinely ordained and given infinite power, to save us by loving us and so lifting us into the warmth and light of heaven. That is all God does – that is the ALL of what God does. The fact that this is complicated to us mere mortals is not a feature of Love Itself. It is complicated for a necessary reason: because God's purpose is fulfilled only by humans who freely, of themselves, choose to receive and accept God's saving love. That makes it messy and complicated from our point of view.

Our task is to open our minds and hearts to receive and accept that love. We have to psychologically and physically work at learning how to do that. We do that work by, first, making God the definer of what is good and true. Whatever our religious tradition, we have to do the equivalent of making Jesus the *Christ*, the *Anointed One*, not merely the son of David. We need to consider him the Son of God. God alone is then the source and purveyor of the Truth. It can be a hard work, and at times difficult to discern. Some examples are: when we reflect back accolades given to us; or when we deny ourselves the best seats (or whatever stuff that symbolizes); or when we lift up our neighbor by giving of what we have, ensuring their abundance even at the loss of our own. Those are the times when we are opening ourselves to the love of God by relying on an infinitely abundant source for our own natural and spiritual lives.

God will then advance our human condition by opening our hearts and minds to deeper, spiritual truths. And then we will change our minds. We will notice and let go of the fear of losing our lives. We will let others be. The joy and happiness we will discover will overcome our inclination to be in control of others. Such will be our secure attachment with God.

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Mindfulness, Cognitive Therapy, Spiritual Development

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

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

Schedule

March 2022

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
3/6	
3/13	11:00 am –Worship Service Online - contact Pastor Clark for details
3/20	
3/27	

April 2022

DATE	Worship Service (type and time)
4/3	
4/10	11:00 am –Palm Sunday Service - in the Church
4/15	7:00 pm –Good Friday Holy Supper Service - in the Church
4/17	11:00 am –Easter Sunday Service - in the Church
4/24	

Keep calm and carry on!

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