

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service
Bible School
9:15 AM
10:45 AM

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When I asked Jonathan to send me a copy of the communion meditation he shared last Sunday, he hesitated, telling me that much of it had come from something he had read. I assured him that most sermons include thoughts, words, and perhaps even paragraphs that were found in places other than the Bible. After all, the Bible was written long ago, and it's been studied and expounded upon ever since.

To claim to have discerned something in the Bible that no one else has ever discerned or commented on is probably more arrogant than accurate. In fact, I've openly stated that I have no idea what is "original" in my sermons, or what I picked up from others throughout the years. And quite frankly, I don't think it matters. Unless, of course, you claim that everything you have written is original.

Having said that, I loved what Jonathan shared with us. And he has carefully noted in the printed copy he sent me what he is quoting from a source he discovered in his study. Kudos to him for his study, and for his integrity. Now, back to what he shared, and where I'm going with it.

As Jonathan noted, if Jesus is in the boat we don't have to worry about storms, nor wonder about the reason for Him being in the boat with us. But there's another benefit to having Him in the boat that came into focus for me on a fishing trip in Florida.

Alan, my friend from FitClub, and I had planned to go to Lake Okeechobee to fish for giant Florida bass, but water conditions led to a change of plans. The guide suggested that we head to Chokoloskee and the 10,000 Island section of Everglades National Park instead, and that we fish for tripletail. Neither of us had ever heard of tripletail, but he assured us that it was a blast to catch. And he was right!

As we were making our way through the 10,000 mangrove islands to get out into the Gulf where the crab pots that attract the tripletail are located, I realized that there was no way I could get through the maze of islands without a guide.

I trust I don't have to explain how this relates to what Jonathan shared with us. If Jesus is in the boat with us, not only do we have no need to worry, we also have the only guide who knows how to get us where we want to go. God Bless, Rick



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JONATHAN'S COMMUNION MEDITATION

During a recent Wednesday night Bible study, we discussed the passage in James 1 that says *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind."*

The bit about doubting and the surf of the sea reminded me of another passage, this one in the Gospel of Mark. Jesus took a break from teaching by the sea to cross to the other side and perform a miraculous healing. While on the way, he was asleep in the boat, and a fierce storm rose up, striking fear into the disciples. They woke Jesus with a doubting question, and appeared to lack wisdom regarding Jesus' power over the wind and the sea. Prior to this point in Mark's gospel, Jesus had already healed many people, of both illnesses and demon-possession. Granted, those feats don't necessarily imply that one additionally has power over the weather, so it is understandable that the disciples asked with doubt. Jesus scolded them for their fear and doubt; nevertheless he answered them by calming the storm, by saving them from what they perceived to be a deadly trial.

Taken together, these two passages in James and Mark seem to teach us that asking for wisdom in faith without doubting will be answered by God generously. And even asking with some doubt can be answered by God, although he may throw in a little reproach along with the generous blessing.

But the calming of the storm wasn't really the purpose of this journey across the sea. Jesus made the suggestion to go to the other side to heal a man with an unclean spirit. "The storm is real and terrifying—the disciples believe that they will not survive—but the point is not about surviving the storm. The point is about who is in the boat with them. Yes, Jesus can calm the storms of our lives. But Jesus didn't come to calm storms, he came to save souls. Jesus didn't come to give me a comfortable life, he came to defeat death." And in this particular instance, Jesus had "a destination in mind, and a soul to save."

"Jesus does not take people out into the middle of the sea to drown them. He takes people across the sea so that they can participate in his work of world redemption. He does not stand afar off to do this. No, he enters the darkness, the evil, the suffering of this world, and he transforms it from within. We need to understand who this is, asleep in the boat."

(Continued inside)

STATISTICS

Worship 122
Offering \$5,801.13

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-2/24/19

GreetersBrad Stirmell
Visitors' Stand.....Judy Marlow
Communion Meditation.....Paul Hunley
Jonathan Sperry
Ushers.....Rich Mann
Kirk Polley
Jim Trimberger
Chris Luzio
Brad Stirmell
Scott Bales

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers.....Karen & Kaelyn Mann
Infants.....Shannon Higgins
Stacey Cantrell
Kate Sperry
Sunday School
Toddlers.....Julie Divjak
Infants.....Vicki Small
Dixie Williamson



--Haiti is in the midst of a horribly dangerous period of political unrest and violence, and numerous Christian missions, including the one we support, are facing unusual hardships.

The Hidden Word

JUDGES 2:15-16

"Wherever they went, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had spoken and as the Lord had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed. Then the Lord raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them."

COMMUNION MEDITATION CONTINUED

He is the one who has power over the storms in our life, but even greater, he is the one who has power over sin and corruption. He has power over those things that can keep us from pursuing God as fully as we should. "Relief from the storm is not the best thing that can happen to you. The best thing that can happen is for you to be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. The enemy can use the storm to make you anxious, afraid, hurt, and discouraged. God can use it to make you fearless, secure, and steadfast."

"Jesus can calm the storm in your life whether you ask with or without doubting. But even if he does not calm the storm, you can trust that he will uphold you, you can believe that he will transform you, and you can know that he loves you. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."

(non-Bible quotes taken from Joel Stucki of Unlocking the Bible, 5/13/2016)



ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Just a reminder that all adults are invited to head for the LSCA gym after the Sunday night study from *Love Thy Body* for a time of recreation and fellowship on the volleyball court.

I AM WHO GOD SAYS I AM

Jr High Students

The Believe conference starts a week from Friday! We will be leaving from the church at 5:00pm on Friday, March 1st. Please bring any overnight supplies you will need and enough money for two meals plus any souvenirs you wish to purchase at the conference.

The Bible is full of statements centering around who we are in Christ, our true identity. I look forward to looking through some of these passages with you to let God define who we are, not our friends or the world. Please have your rides arranged to pick you up at 4:30pm on Saturday, March 2nd.



4th & 5th Grade Students

SuperStart also starts a week from Friday! You all know my displeasure in having to miss it this year, but you will have an excellent replacement. Thank you Erica for your willingness to spend time with our kids at this conference.

You will be leaving from CCC at 4:30pm on Friday March 1st to get on the road to Bloomington. Since you will be staying at Mark Zimmerman's house in Bloomington, please bring any overnight essentials you will need plus enough money for two meals. Your job is to take excellent notes because I want to hear all about it when you return! Pick up time will be at 4:30pm on Saturday, March 2nd.



Inner City Mission

We had 16 members of the youth group participate this past Sunday in serving some residents at the Inner City Mission in Springfield. While some were out of the house due to the long weekend, our kids still served around 17 adults and children barbeque sandwiches, cheesy potatoes and cookies for their meal. It was good to visit with staff and understand the ministry better.

Once accepted by the mission, residents can stay for up to two years if needed depending on their situation. During their stay, they are not required to pay for rent, utilities or even food. They are given the chance to save money and generate a timeline of when they can move out positioned for success.

I talked with one resident who has been there just over a year. While working for a collections agency, which has been difficult because she fully understands how individuals can get behind on their bills, she has now saved enough money to get a fresh start and move out in April.

There was also a family who just moved into the mission last month from the state of Washington. As a family, they had worshiped together at church that morning and later attended a prayer meeting that afternoon. The father went on to explain some difficult situations the family has dealt with, how Inner City Mission is helping them get back on track, and his plan to save in order to purchase a house in the area.

Please keep Inner City Mission in your prayers. It was evident they are sharing the gospel and ministering to people in a very tangible way.