

Excerpts from CS Lewis's sermon "Learning in War-Time"

by C. S. Lewis A sermon preached in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, Autumn, 1939.

The war creates no absolutely new situation: it simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice. Human culture has always had to exist under the shadow of something infinitely more important than itself.

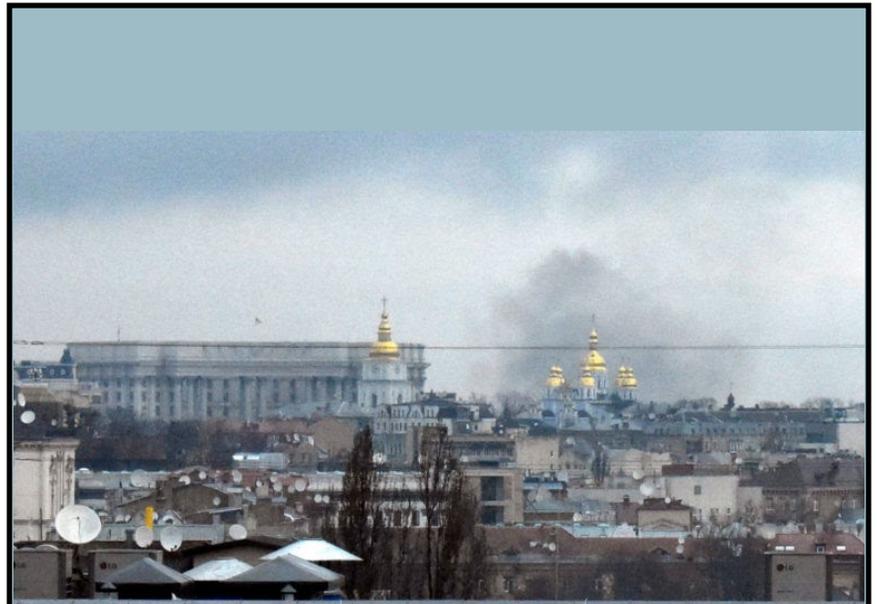
If men had postponed the search for knowledge and beauty until they were secure the search would never have begun. We are mistaken when we compare war with "normal life". Life has never been normal. Even those periods which we think most tranquil, like the nineteenth century, turn out, on closer inspection, to be full of cries, alarms, difficulties, emergencies.



February 27, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Cosmic Authority



**Pray
For
Ukraine**

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise

"This is My Father's World". Babcock

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism Q/A 27 & 28

Song of Praise

"Crown Him with Many Crowns". Bridges/Thring/Elvey

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning: 1 John 2:3-5

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 5:8-9

Song of Renewal

"Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King". Robinson/Mills

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:21-28 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon

"Cosmic Authority"

Song of Communion

"God of Calvary". Tomlin/Myrin/Maher/Redman

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"I Surrender All". VanDeVenter/Weeden

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 2/20/2022

Attendance: 40

Offering: \$3155.00

Your offering may be placed in the box at the Welcome Table.

The War in the Ukraine: Praying, Hurting, Longing



By Scotty Smith

"The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them... They will neither harm nor destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Isa. 11:6-9

Lord Jesus, our hearts break, our anger is growing, our fears are real. The evil we are witnessing in the Ukraine fuels our longing for the fulfillment of Isaiah's vision. How long, O Lord? Have mercy, King Jesus. We pray for the church, children, and citizens of the Ukraine. We pray for the growing masses of Russian citizens protesting this horror.

Jesus, hasten the Day when all enmity, strife, and violence will be gone forever—no more wars or even rumors of war. All selfishness, racism, tribalism, or trafficking have an expiration date. As you have promised, *"They will neither harm nor destroy anywhere..."* Your entire every-nation Bride will love one another as you love us, Jesus. Hallelujah, what a glorious, guaranteed hope.

Hurry the Day when God's glory will cover the earth like saltwater covers the oceans of the world—the Day when knowing the Lord won't be something we do, but who we are. The Day when we will finally and fully love and worship you with everything we have and are.

Until then, keep us groaning and growing in grace, Lord Jesus. Grant us quick repentances, softer hearts, and a passion for local reconciliation and global mission. May the world recognize us as your disciples by the way we love one another. You have come, and you're coming again, Jesus. How long, O Lord? So Very Amen.

The first testimony in the gospel of Mark to the identity of Jesus comes from a demon. 1:24.

From this encounter we know without doubt that whenever the authority of Christ, the Son of God, is invoked in preaching or teaching, there is a violent confrontation with the evil spirits who possess men's souls and rule their lives.

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY: PEOPLE AMAZED AND ASTONISHED

Mark 1:27–28 (ESV)

²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

There had been no technique, no spells or incantations, no symbolic act. There had been only the word. There was no category familiar to them which explained the sovereign authority with which Jesus spoke and acted.

The disturbance of men by God had begun.¹

We are the Church, the Body of Christ

Christ calls his followers to minister in his authority.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18–20).

Jesus is with us! His authority rests with his Church! Let us possess and use it with humility and energy.²

¹Lane, W. L. (1974). *The Gospel of Mark* (p. 76). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

²Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior* (Vol. 1, pp. 42–45). Crossway Books.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 2 7:00 P.M. Men's Small Group
at the home of Dave Frame

Wednesday, March 2 Coventry-Warwick Ministerium **Lenten Service** at Mt. Carmel UMC, 2203 Harmonyville Rd. Elverson PA 19520.
Pastor Rick will be speaking.

Sunday, March 6 12:00 PM Congregational Meeting of GCC
Everyone is encouraged to attend. Lunch included.

Wednesday, March 9 Coventry-Warwick Ministerium **Lenten Service** at Calvary Christian Center, 426 Laurelwood Rd. Pottstown, PA 19465. **GCC will be hosting.** Pastor Jim Jannotti will be speaking.

Friday & Saturday, March 18-19 Men's Retreat at Camp Sankanac.
Pick up more information and registration at the Welcome Table.

Sunday, March 20 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults—1300 High St

Crossing Cultures International **David and Mindy Nelson**



Myanmar

Pray for the National Director, who will teach six hours a week to 13 students in a training school. Please pray that the Lord will fill him with His strength, wisdom, and peace to rise to every challenge and not grow weary when guiding and teaching others. Pray for the safety of Myanmar from Covid (Omicron variant) and military actions. May the Lord keep the people of Myanmar safe from the hands of those who intend to cause them harm and from any sickness. Please pray for protection from danger and illness and for provisions for those in refugee camps across the country.

DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Holden

Pray for the young man from Kutztown University who expressed interest in the Gospel and received a Bible. Pray that he sees the truth and believes it.

CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Pray for the men and women they have the privilege of talking to daily, as they journey towards missions.
- Pray for them to be able to move into their home soon.
- Pray for their son Jonathan as he is having a lot of trouble sleeping at night.

Prayer/Praise.February 27, 2022

- Pray for Sara Care, who had a procedure as an outpatient on February 23rd, during which they removed metal plates and wires from her chest. Pray for relief from related pain.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who has an opportunity to go to Costa Rica. Pray for guidance in God's will for Nic and for the families impacted by their ministry. If anyone would like to donate for Nic to go to Costa Rica: Venmo-#Kicknollinz or send to his church: 2700 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210
- Please pray for Deb Breyer, friend of Dawn Fleetman, who is back in the hospital with pneumonia and a leg infection. She is on breathing treatments and antibiotics. Deb is in Lehigh Valley Hospital at Cedar Crest. Pray for God's healing for Deb.
- Please pray for Agnes, a coworker of Dawn Fleetman, who had a heart attack at work and is in the hospital. It is the second one and now has eight stents. Pray for her recovery.
- Pray for Nic Collins whose school announced they were shutting down this year. Pray for guidance for his future.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yensan, as they have new navy orders for the end of this month to transfer to a marine base in California. Pray for safety in moving and God's discerning wisdom in decisions they have control over for the future.
- Pray for Sam Mace's brother, Bob, and his family. The family is experiencing serious health issues, and difficult decisions need to be made. Pray the family would sense God is with them amid all that is occurring in the family.
- Praise that Mike Row is home now and doing well. Pray for his continued strength.
- Pray for Eric Barret, whose wife, Lizette, passed away. Eric had back surgery and isn't back to work yet. Pray for God's strength, comfort, and peace for Eric, who is really struggling alone with the loss of Lizette.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Evan is doing as well as he can at this point, but he will always need oxygen in his nose for his lungs. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. Pray for strength, stamina, and a positive outlook with PT using his new prosthetics. Austin now has a prosthetic for his left leg and both arms. Pray for Austin as he continues to navigate his surroundings and his new life.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak. Denny has started physical therapy on his arm. Pray that he will soon be able to have the procedure to get the results of his bladder cancer treatments.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy

Message

Cosmic Authority

Mark 1:21–28 (ESV)

The Preliminaries are Done

Mark begins his actual account of the events of the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is essential that if Christ is to come and establish His Kingdom, He must overpower the current ruler who is none other than Satan. He must have cosmic authority, authority that is beyond human authority, that is beyond this temporal world. He must have power that extends into the universe. He must have power over all the evil forces that exist in the universe.

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY: HIS EXTRAORDINARY PREACHING

Mark 1:21–22 (ESV)

²¹And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

He was so real, so true, so utterly, passionately sincere. But as important as these factors were, the text places the responsibility for his success on his *logos*, his word: "because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law."

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY: HIS MIRACULOUS POWER

Mark 1:23–26 (ESV)

²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.

"Have you come to destroy us?" was really a defiant assertion: "You have come to destroy us!"²⁶ The demon realized the menace of Christ and cried with an instinctive expression of dread. He wanted Jesus to disappear, for he knew that Jesus would destroy him.