

Basic clarity seems elusive, much less progress. As a friend pointed out, it's alarming to think that younger generations are being conditioned to think that these events are *normal occurrences* and that retreating to political corners and blaming others is the *normal way to respond to them*. That would be a tragedy upon a tragedy.

Still, what hasn't changed is that God has called His people to a particular time and place, and He's called us to be part of His redemptive work in the world in this time and this place. While the temptation to "just do something" at times like this is strong, it also quite often is misleading. Thank God for the vast resources He has given us in Scripture and how they apply even to times as confusing as these.

First, the psalms of lament and the imprecatory psalms offer godly direction for our rage and sorrow. Not just once or twice, but repeatedly, God invites His people to weep before Him for the sorrows of the world and to be angry at the injustices we experience.

Second, the Apostle Paul gives us something to do at times like this: "Mourn with those who mourn." This instruction matches the incarnational way that God, in Christ Jesus, interacted with His fallen world. He was with us. May God give strength to His people in Uvalde, Texas, to *be* the Church there. At the same time, this is another symptom of culture-wide brokenness, so all of us have the same incarnational work to do.

And we can do this work because of what we learn from the shortest verse in the Bible. In one of the most poignant moments in Scripture, we read that "Jesus wept." In Bethany, Christ joins in with a dead man's sisters in their mourning for their loss.

What makes this so astonishing is that Jesus knows that He will raise Lazarus to life again, and by doing so, he is going to end the family's suffering, even turn it into a party. Yet, He is not aloof or dismissive of their grief. Instead, He weeps with them—for the pain of a fallen world, for the unnaturalness of death, for the hopelessness people feel in the face of tragedy. Because Christ—who had the power of life and death at His command—can weep with those who weep, we can do the same.

And finally, we have the gift of knowing that one day, death itself will be cast into Hell. So, we do not grieve as though without hope. One day, everything sad "will become untrue." And because we do not weep as the world weeps, the Church has so much to offer when the world does weep. Like now.



May 29, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## Out of His Mind and Possessed



**"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."**

Romans 10:9 (KJV)

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# Order of Service

## Announcements

### Welcome

### Preparation for Worship

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

### Call To Worship

**Hymn of Praise:** "All Creatures of our God and King"

. . . St. Francis of Assissi/Baird/Draper

### Prayer of Invocation

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Westminster Shorter Catechism\*

**Song of Praise:** "God So Loved". . . . .Bergthold/Cash

### Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

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

**The Law of God:** Romans 13:8-10

### Public Confession

### Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort:** 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

### Song of Renewal

"What a Beautiful Name". . . . .Fielding/Ligertwood

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

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 3:20-30

### Prayer

### The Sermon

"Out of His Mind and Possessed"

### Song of Communion

"Oh the Deep Deep Love". . . . . Francis/Kauflin

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Prayer of Approach

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

### Holy Communion

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

### Parting Hymn

"All I Have is Christ". . . . . Jordan Kauflin

### Benediction

\*The Westminster Shorter Catechism, along with the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Westminster Larger Catechism, serve together as the statement of faith for the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Formulated in the 17th century England, they are a second level of authority under the Scriptures and serve to explain the system of doctrine revealed in the Bible.

## The Offer of Grace: Repent and Be Forgiveness

"All sins will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they utter."

If by God's grace you can repent today of your sin, do it now, because you may not be able to do today you may not be able to do tomorrow.

*Romans 10:9-10 (ESV)*

"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

<sup>12</sup>C. S. Lewis, *The Case for Christianity* (New York: Macmillan, 1944), p. 45.

<sup>2</sup>MacArthur, J. (2015). Mark 1-8 (p. 179). Moody Publishers.

<sup>3</sup>MacArthur, J. (2015). Mark 1-8 (p. 185). Moody Publishers.



## God Weeps With the People of Uvalde

If the Scriptures are true, they're true even for moments like this one.

Yesterday, when our writing team gathered to discuss the horrific events at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, we struggled to know how to even process what had happened, much less what to say: yet, *another* evil attack on vulnerable children; evil so shocking, it's impossible to fathom; and, at the same time, a story horrifyingly familiar.

On Tuesday morning, an 18-year-old young man, after shooting his own grandmother, drove to his former elementary school, rammed through the security gate with his car, and barricaded himself in a classroom. Before it was all over, 19 children and two teachers had been killed.

As if that were not horrible enough, it came just days after two other mass shootings. On May 15, one man was killed and five more wounded at a California church, and the day before that, 10 were killed in a racially motivated assault in Buffalo, New York. Over 30 dead in less than a week. For what? This simply should not be.

We're left with a lot of uncomfortable questions. How could anyone be capable of such evil? How long until something like this happens again? Why does this keep happening? Why so often here in America, but rarely elsewhere, in places like Britain or Australia? Why did it not happen here even a generation or two ago? What is plaguing young men in our culture, who are far more likely to commit acts of evil like this?

(Continued on next page)

**Jesus' brothers did not yet believe in Him (cf. John 7:5).**

**For the brothers of Jesus it was time to rescue their older brother from Himself.** Though His brothers did not believe in Him yet, their unbelief was only temporary. They would come to embrace Him in faith after His resurrection (Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:7). In fact, Jesus' brother James would become a leader in the Jerusalem church (cf. Acts 15:13–35; Gal. 1:19), and both James and Judas (Jude) would pen epistles in the New Testament. At this time, however, out of concern for Him perhaps mixed with a sense of pity and family duty, they determined to go to Capernaum to bring Him safely back to Nazareth.<sup>2</sup>

### **2. Jesus is Possessed: The Accusation of Jesus' Foes (3:22–30)**

*"He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."*

**In answer to the question posed by the multitudes,** Jesus' enemies insisted that He was actually the antithesis of the Son of David. He was not the Christ, they said, but a servant of **Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.**

#### **The allegation of the scribes was a logical absurdity.**

Satan never would have authorized or empowered such a cataclysmic attack on his own kingdom. For the Pharisees and scribes to make that claim was ridiculous.

**They charge him with demon possession; he charges them with committing the unpardonable sin.**

### **3. Jesus affirms that all the sins of men are open to forgiveness, with one exception.**

Apostates, like the unbelieving religious leaders of Jesus' day, are those who have been fully exposed to the truth of the gospel and yet walk away from Christ in spite of the overwhelming evidence they have been given. At its heart, apostasy is a willful repudiation of the Holy Spirit's testimony to the person and work of Jesus Christ. Blasphemy **against the Holy Spirit**, then, describes the apostate heart that with full knowledge has irrevocably rejected the One to whom the Spirit points. That is why it is **an eternal sin**—because no forgiveness is possible for those who refuse to stop rejecting Christ.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Run from Sin**

Do not be the professing Christian today who has such a sentimental view of God's justice that you never feel terror and horror at the thought of being utterly forsaken by God because of your persistence in sin.

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, June 5 4:00-5:00 P.M. Men and Youth Laser Tag** at Jay Lanes Cost: \$13.00 for 3 games. Followed by a cookout at the Deicherts. Let Matt know if you are interested by June 3.

**Saturday, June 4 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner**  
at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

**Tuesday, June 7 6:00 PM to Dusk (includes Supper)**  
Summer Youth/Young Adult Bible Study at the Deicherts

**Sunday, June 12 10:30 A. M. Graduate Recognition Sunday**

**Sunday, June 19 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer**  
GCC Prayer Gathering —1300 High St.

**Monday, June 20—Wednesday, June 22 Jim Thorpe Camping Trip** for Youth and Young Adults: grade 6—age 30.  
See Deana for more information.

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### **Crossing Cultures International** David and Mindy Nelson



**PRAISE THE LORD JESUS** for hearing your prayers and answering them according to His will. **PRAISE THE LORD JESUS** for supplying the needed financial support for the CCI national workers to carry on and expand this ministry in their countries.

#### **DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Holden**

- Praise for a successful Women's Conference.
- Pray that the recently completed Core Values Video will energize students to reach others on their campus.

#### **CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl**

- Pray for the family of Jason Spieker, who died in a tragic accident last month. He is survived by a wife and two young daughters.
- Pray Maddie and Jonathan as they transition to their new home.
- Pray for breakthrough in marriages and families as they experience God's power to heal even the most impossible situations.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . . May 29, 2022

- Praise that Denny Bartchak is in remission from lung and bladder cancer.
- Praise that Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, is doing well one year after his accident. Pray for continued healing and God's strength for Austin as he navigates his new life using his prosthetics.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's father and her sister, Gwen. Koreen's father is in the hospital, and Gwen is his primary caretaker. Pray for God's grace and mercy for Koreen and her family and those who may not know the Lord. Pray for wisdom for doctors.
- Pray for Anthony and Janet Conte, parents of Mandi Yensan's friend, Christine. Anthony is in the hospital with fluid buildup around his heart and needs a new valve. Pray for Anthony's surgery to be scheduled soon.
- Pray for John Kurtyka, cousin of Lorraine Blanski's husband, Matt. John's 32-year-old son passed away suddenly on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Pray for his daughter, Leah, who is struggling with drug addiction and is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Pray for God's strength, peace, and comfort for John and his family.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for Liam's and Terry's families.
- Pray for Steve Simons neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God's strength for the McCabe family during this difficult time.
- Praise that Dalton Weider, father of Lulu Bocci's friend, Mary, is now in rehab learning to talk, walk, and move his muscles. Pray for his progress and his family as they support him.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniouk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Dawn Rhoads, Igor's mother-in-law, who had her 4<sup>th</sup> cancer treatment on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Pray for God's healing for Dawn.
- Pray for Delores, the mother of Donna Jenkins' niece, Shelly, who was scheduled for surgery on April 27<sup>th</sup> for artery blockage. She was in intensive care until the surgery could be performed. Pray for a successful procedure.
- Pray for Lynn Rhoads, a friend of Donna Jenkins, who is back in the hospital again. She will be having tests done to determine what is wrong. Pray for God's wisdom for her doctors and God's healing for Lynn.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' friend, Debbie Breyer, who was in Quakertown Rehab for observation was moved to a nursing home. Pray for Debbie's husband, who is in the hospital with undetermined issues. Pray for God's healing.
- Pray for Nic Collins. The new school is not being launched as their director stepped down. Pray that Nic receives an internship with the church.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Praise that Evan can be off the breathing machine for the hours he is awake. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

## Message

### Out of His Mind and Possessed

*Mark 3:20–30 (ESV)*

*Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup>And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."<sup>22</sup> And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul." and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."<sup>23</sup> And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. <sup>27</sup>But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. <sup>28</sup>"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—<sup>30</sup>for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."*

#### **Either Jesus was a lunatic, or a demonic liar, or he was God.**

"I'm trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really silly thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That's the one thing we mustn't say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he's a poached egg—or else he'd be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But don't let us come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He hasn't left that open to us. He didn't intend to."<sup>1</sup>

#### **1. Lunatic: The Assumption of Jesus' Family (3:20–21)**

**When the report reached Jesus' family that he failed to care properly for his needs they came (presumably from Nazareth) to seize him and forcibly bring him home. The charge leveled against Jesus is that "he has lost his mind."**