

Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ

May 8, 2022

First Reading; Acts 9: 36-43

Responsive Reading; Psalm 23

Epistle Reading; Revelation 7: 9-17

Gospel Reading; John 10: 22-30

Sermon Title:

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET

By Rev. Jim Gardner

Summary; There is no-one so blind as he who will not see.
Don't choose to be blind. You will miss it all.

You ain't seen nothing yet.

This sermon title hit me immediately after I read the 4 scripture readings for this morning.

These scriptures cover all the bases. The 23rd Psalm refers to God's daily provisions for us. Every day He gives us safe resting areas and leads us by still waters that will revive us and refresh us as apposed to raging torrents that might kill us. He gives constant hope, restores our souls and makes us part of His

family by anointing us. He protects us and guides us always so that we may live in the house of the Lord every day, forever.

In Acts we see the story of Tabitha, or also called Dorcas. Tabitha is a wonderful woman, the kind of lady we honor on Mother's Day. She has spent her life serving others with her talent of making clothes. So many of us are blessed by what mothers and other wonderful women have done for us that helped us to become the people that we are today. Tabitha died and Peter was summoned to come to her.

I must make it clear that Peter did not raise Tabitha from the dead. Jesus healed and raised the dead by acting on His own divine status. Peter on the other hand, cleared the room and prayed to God and when he felt God's answer he said, "Tabitha get up."

We are not Jesus. We cannot perform miracles, but like Peter we can pray. God heard Peter's prayer and God hears our prayers too. If we believe like Peter and pray to our God that we truly believe in, every now and then God will grant us a life altering miracle. God can and will grant us an occasional miracle and show us that, "We ain't seen nothing yet."

This scripture covers that one time, one event that can and does happen in the lives of so many of us.

Now we come to the lesson from Revelation. This is almost too awesome to believe. Kind of like so many other happenings in the Bible, like the Exodus and the battles, and the Manna from heaven and the resurrection to name a few.

Oh, by the way, non-believers will say all that stuff can not be true. Look at all the inconsistencies. To that I reply, I was a Policeman for 12 years and one of the first things that we learned is that if all the witnesses have the exact same story then you simply can not trust it. We all see things through our own eyes and we will always see some things differently. We will all put more importance on certain things heard or seen than the person next to us will. If all the accounts are identical then the story has been coached. The Bible even speaks to this when it says, "Many more signs were given that would fill many books, but these are revealed to you so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God." OK that is paraphrased a little but it is close.

The book of Revelation, and especially this account has differing interpretations. Some say that this is referring to after the millennium reign of Christ and others feel that this is during the tribulation. If you believe the rapture must come before the tribulation then you cannot believe that we are possibly in the beginning stages of the tribulation. On the other hand if you believe that Revelation is not prophesy as such but a beautiful

rendition of the magnitude of the possibilities of God then you might see this as a possibility that God is bringing the hearts of all the people in the world, or at least more than ever before, closer than ever before then you might see the Ukraine situation as a possible worldwide life changing event.

Has the world ever cried out in unison to a despicable invasion and brutality as it has in the case of the invasion of Ukraine? Has the world ever been so unified in trying to stop it without resorting to war? If this is a possibility, is this a sign of what may very well be a pending miracle? I'm not saying that it is but I am saying that if it is, I sure do not want to miss it because I am not too afraid to believe that with God all things are possible.

This brings us to our Gospel Lesson.

Jesus is walking in the Temple, Solomon's porch to be specific, and the unbelieving Jews ask Him when will He show His true self. To this Jesus answers in paraphrase, "Hey guys I already told you and you did not believe, and I already showed you with my signs and you are still too stubborn to believe. You are beyond hope. You can't hear me because you refuse to believe. You are not worth the trouble. My sheep hear my voice and they follow me." Back in Jeremiah it says, "Hear this now, O foolish people, without understanding, who have eyes and see not. And who have ears and hear not." Indicating that there is no one so blind as he who WILL NOT SEE.

I do not want to be that guy. I don't want to be so busy looking down at the snakes striking my ankles, or in other words looking at my troubles that I miss out on the miracles happening all around me. Miracles big and small. I choose not to be blind or deaf. I choose to see Jesus. Hallelujah and Amen!