

“Jesus—Mighty in Battle”
April 13, 2014

Mark 4:26-5:20

PROP- The enemy seems to threaten us the most—when he feels most threatened. Watch as Jesus counters his attacks—and destroys his attachments to those he oppresses.

1. OVERCOMING THE STORM. (Countering the enemy’s ATTACKS)

THE SEA OF GALILEE-

- A huge freshwater lake (13 miles long—8 miles wide)
- Can view the entire lake when standing on the shore
- One of the lowest points on the earth—700 feet below sea level
- Frequent, sudden storms were common (i.e., Mark 6:45- Lit.- “*a contrary wind*”)

BUT THIS STORM WAS DIFFERENT!

- Matthew refers to it as a “shaking” (*seismos*)
- Mark calls it “a great wind” (*mega*)
- A demonic attack on their lives
- Jesus and the 12 in one boat—wipe out their ministry w/ one attack

JESUS’ RESPONSE:

- The boat was “swamped” (i.e., about to sink)
- Jesus slept
 - Jonah slept as result of the exhaustion fueled by fear—in the midst of a storm sent by God (to bring him back on course)
 - Jesus slept the sleep of calm confidence, trusting His Father, in the midst of a storm stirred up by the enemy
 - He sat on the pilot’s “pillow”—resting in His Father’s protection
- Jesus spoke
 - “Be muzzled” (same command to demons in Mark 1:25)
 - “Great storm” became a “great calm”—with one word!
 - Disciples’ reaction: “Terrified!” (4:41)—still clueless as to who Jesus really is

GREAT STORM→ GREAT CALM→ GREAT FEAR

Every trial is a test—revealing what we really believe about Jesus
Every test is an opportunity—to embrace a fresh revelation of Jesus’ majesty!

2. SETTING A CAPTIVE FREE. (Destroying the enemy's ATTACHMENTS)

THE GERASENE DEMONIAK (the epitome of possession)

- Lived among tombs—attracted to death
- Supernatural strength
- Naked, howling, cutting himself (*lowering real estate value*)

THE DEMONS' RESPONSE

- Acknowledge Jesus' intimate relationship with Father: "SON of the Most High"
- They were terrified: "Don't torture us!" (*i.e., saw His authority as He calmed their attacking storm*)
- James 2:19- "Demons believe—and tremble" (*shudder, horrified*)
- They know a time is appointed for their destruction in the FUTURE (Romans 16:20; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 19:20-21)...
- ...Meanwhile, they live a tormented existence NOW.
- "My name is...for *we are*..."- totally confusing this man's identity (NOTE: One of the foremost attacks of the enemy—i.e., Satan's attack on Jesus in the wilderness)
- "Legion"- 2,000-6,000 Roman warriors. True? Or an attempt at intimidation? Regardless, they could not prevent this man from bowing at Jesus' feet. Demons MUST fully submit to Jesus' authority.
- What happened to the pigs—what enemy had intended for Jesus and disciples in the earlier attack on the lake

TWO-FOLD ATTACK OF THE ENEMY:

- IDENTITY- to keep us from discovering our ultimate destiny—to be conformed to the image of Christ.
- EXISTANCE- to rob us of life

THE CROWDS' REACTION: Fear

- Dressed and in his right mind...and they are afraid!?!?
- Terrified of Jesus' absolute authority! (Unexplainable; uncontrollable)
- They beg Jesus to leave...no room for Him to be Himself among them!

CONCLUSION

Jesus then does something equally amazing—he refuses to take the formerly demonized man with Him. Instead, he sends him home and encourages him to tell his story. His story is brief. His encounter with Jesus is brief—yet enough to transform 10 demonically-oppressed cities. When Jesus returns to them, they are amazingly receptive to Him! (Matt. 14:35) (Feeding of 4,000)
One life → 10 cities.

Imagine what He can do through you!