

Intro.

- A. Jesus taught, If a nation goes to war again vs an enemy, be sure to count the cost & make sure they will be on the winning side. **c. Lk. 14:27-33**
1. Young man 14 yrs. of age witnessed a theft, & told authorities who the thief was (an 18 yr. old), & was threatened. His father advised use of an equalizer (e.g., 2 X 4) if he was pursued!
 2. There's no benefit to being on the losing side in a battle or a war.
- B. Walking in Jesus footprints keeps us on equal footing, & guarantees victory.
1. Mark recorded 4 miracles that Jesus performed.
 2. Each of these tells of the defeat of an enemy by God's victorious servant.
 3. I am persuaded that these also teach us important lessons re: areas of our lives in which we can anticipate victory as we follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Discuss.

(c. Mt. 8:18ff & Lk. 8:22ff)

I. VICTORY OVER DANGER – NO FEAR. **Mk. 4:35-41** **→** **"Peace, Be Still"** they had learned.

- A. Earlier ~ day Christ taught disciples 4 parables re: His kingdom, & now came a practical test to see what \\
1. Remem., *hearing* the Word is *designed* to produce *faith*, **Rom. 10:17**, & faith will doubtlessly be tested,**J**
 2. The storm = a *test*, teaching disciples that Jesus is due our trust thru all the storms of life. (c. Jonah disob)
 3. *Irraculadon* was not like a w-KY storm, but typical for S of G.
 - a. Apostle's security should have been in promise to reach other side (**vs. 35**)
 - b. Christ was w/ them & He does not give *false security* (~ Jonah). **c. Psal. 4:8**
- B. Too often we = disciples, crying to God, *Don't You care...? ...Oh yes, He Cares*
1. Keep in mind that there = warning about *an evil heart of unbelief* (c. **Heb. 3:12**)
 2. Reason for complete confidence (thus no fear) = Christ had power to forgive, over disease, demons, stor

II. VICTORY OVER DEMONS – KNOW FORCE. **Mk. 5:1-20**

- A. Take note of what *Satan* has done to people in the past. He = a force to be reckoned with seriously!
1. **Rev. 9:11** – he = a destroyer, Apollyon. (c. **Jn. 10:10**)
 2. Demons = *unclean spirits* may have ceased control of lives of those who cultivated sinful practices.
 - a. The devil had robbed them of self-control—they lived in tombs, separated f/ family or friends.
 - b. Satan is still today a destroyer & thief. NEVER underestimate his destructive force.
- B. 2nd force influence the 2 men in the Garasene graveyard = *society*.
1. In 1st cent., most "problem people" were isolated, restrained, & ignored - - if possible.
 2. Society still searches for how to effectively deal w/ *problem people*.
- C. The *Savior* = 3rd force at work with these men.
1. He approached them in love, & talked with them. **c. Lk. 19:10** *came to seek & save lost*
 2. They confessed Christ (**c. Jas.2:19**), but they did not willingly obey = *not saved!*
 3. identified as Legion (= up to 6,000 men in Rm. army).
 4. 3 *requests* of the Savior:
 - ✓ Demons asked to be sent into the pigs, not out of the country (**vs 10, 12**)
 - ✓ Citizens asked Jesus to leave the area, **vs 17**
 - ✗ One of the freed demoniacs asked to follow him, **vs 18** - He became 1st gentile preacher in area.
 5. Think of the lesson to witnesses: *to Satan, little diff. between pig & man; wages of sin = death!*
 6. Why did owners of swine want Christ to leave? They didn't realize what they would miss!!!

III. VICTORY OVER DISEASE – NO KNOWN CURE. **Mk. 5:21-34.**

- A. Those blind to opportunities of having Christ w/ them were relieved when He left ; others welcome Him.
- B. Returning to Capernaum, 2 were especially glad to see Him – Jairus, & an unnamed woman w/ incurable\
1. Lady w/ blood disorder spent all on health care, but still very sick, & ceremonially unclean, **Lev. 15:19ff**
 2. Pushing her way thru crowd, she reached out in faith to touch. *It is not enough to be close, must trust.*
 3. "Daughter...whole...peace" **vs 34** Think what His words meant. [*peace*: **1:25/4:39/5:34**]

IV. VICTORY OVER DEATH -- NO HOPELESSNESS. Mk. 5:35-43

- A. Jairus' coming to Jesus must have been hard since he = a ruler of the synagogue, **vs. 22**
 - 1. Christ's teaching had angered many of the scribes & Pharisees.
 - 2. Likely, some of these were friends & co-workers to Jairus.
- B. In desperation, he begged Christ to come & heal his little daughter who was gravely ill, **vs 23**
 - 1. ... & *she will live!* => shows gt. faith.
 - 2. → Woman w/ issue of blood took His attention away f/ this desperate father momentarily.
 - 3. a friend/servant from Jairus' house came announcing his daughter's death, **vs 35**

Concl.

- C. Take special note of the significance of Jesus' words & the difference they made.
 - 1. There was ***the word of faith***, **vs 36.** – *do not be afraid, only believe*(i.e., keep on believing)
 - 2. There was ***the word of hope***, **vs 39** – *Why are you crying? The child is not dead, but only asleep.*
 - 3. There was ***the word of love & power***, **vs. 41** – *Little girl, I say to you, arise.* → she = alive & well!!!
- D. Whenever we really listen & respond to the word of the Lord, we have good reason to be filled w/ hope.
 - 1. Faith & trust in God's Word will displace our fears.
 - 2. The hope of eternal life belongs to those who are doers of the Word, & not just hearers, **Js. 1:22**
 - 3. God's word will be powerful in your life--- powerful enough to give you victory
 - a. over the fear of dangers that threaten us
 - b. over the force of the devil
 - c. over debilitating disease that may ravage our physical body, but cannot harm our soul
 - d. over death, because Christ *IS OUR HOPE.*