

“Victory Over the Issues of Life”

His Place WM

11/14/21

I love winning! And I hate losing!

That’s why I’m a Cowboy fan and not a Raider fan. =) That’s why I’m a Lakers fan and not a Clippers fan! =)

Everybody loves winning and everybody I know hates losing. One of the many great things about following Jesus is that we are winners in Him...why? ***Because Jesus is the ultimate winner.***

The Bible is all about Jesus and the Bible calls Jesus the Victor! ***He is the Master of every situation and the Conqueror of every enemy.***

In fact, one of the major themes of the whole Bible is that: ***Jesus is Victorious!***

So perhaps you’re in need of a Victory today...perhaps you’re in need of some hope...of a brighter day than what you have experiencing lately...Perhaps you have been racking up a lot of L’s in the win/loss category of life...Well I’m here today to tell you: ***Jesus is Victorious and He has and is the Power to give you...***

Victory Over the Issues of Life

I am more secure in this thought right here than I ever have been in my life: ***If I will trust Him and follow His plan and His orders, I have no need to be afraid, because Victory is the mark of every person who is in Christ.***

And to prove that today I want to ***take a look at this Christ...this One who is Victorious over all things and take a look at a narrative of Scripture that includes a quick-hitting synopsis of how Jesus comes to town and just turns the devil’s plans upside-down.***

How many people need the devil’s plans for your life turned upside down and defeated?

The Gospel of Mark is like the highlight tape of Jesus. It’s like His greatest hits. It’s short, fast-paced, and to the point.

But that doesn’t mean it’s simple. ***It has layers, like the rest of the Bible.*** It’s simple enough for a child yet deep enough that we’ll never reach the bottom.

Our passage today from Mark has layers, like a really good sandwich. Multiple stories all with one major Hero: Jesus...and one major theme: That Jesus is victorious of the Issues of our life...and not just minor issues...HUGE Issues!

The thing about a great sandwich is that it just isn't as good when you start separating the layers...you have to eat it all together...the same is true about this whole passage of Scripture today...You need the whole thing to make the meal and to get out of it what was meant for you.

And what is super interesting to me is that right before these quick-hitting stories that we are about to look at that exemplify Jesus being Victorious over all the issues of our life...***Jesus gives His disciples this lesson on faith...***

It's almost as if Jesus was the perfect teacher...***"I'm going to teach you about something and next I'm actually going to show you what I just taught you and then you're going to put into action what you just learned."***

And Jesus wanted His students to know what real faith was like and what it could do.

See, Biblical faith is not a leap in the dark. It's not hoping something is there on the other side to catch you. ***Biblical faith is a complete trust in the trustworthy God who is there and who is not silent.***

Martin Luther said, ***"Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it."***

So Jesus shares His Words with His disciples...after all, the hearing of Christ's Words is intended to produce faith...and now they journey out for the practical application of that faith.

So we come to our text today...

Mark 4:35-41 (ESV)

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And he awoke and ***rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, ***"Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"*** ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, ***"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"******

We are going to be looking at 4 things today that we can have victory over...

When we are in Christ, we can have...

1. **Victory over Danger**

Some people believe that life should be full of roses and lilies and that if you're a Christian that everything is just supposed to be perfect without any trials or danger...And there are some that would say that God doesn't care about the minor details of our life...like the dangers that come our way...

Whoever taught you that was lying to you. The reality of this life and especially of our life of faith in Christ is this...

Faith must be tested! That is one of the reasons that God permits trials and dangers to come into our lives.

Jesus knew the storm was coming...yet He deliberately took His disciples into the midst of it...***The storm was part of that day's curriculum!***

If we believe God is Sovereign...and He is...then we must also believe that everything that comes to our life (minus the things that we receive because of our stinking thinking and stupid choices) is there because they have already passed through the Hand of God and He has allowed it to be...and He is going to teach us something or use it for His Glory.

What are some things in your life right now that are present perhaps because God is trying to teach you something? Learn it...humble yourself and sit at the Master's feet and learn from Him. He is a gracious and merciful teacher who loves you and only has your very best in mind.

Trust me...***those disciples were in danger. The boat was about to go down in the middle of the night.*** It can be cold there on the Sea of Galilee...their lives were at stake...and they were scared...and Jesus was asleep in the stern.

But Jesus needed them to understand something that day that was more important than their feelings...more important than their emotions...more important than the facts in front of them...

Jesus can be trusted in the storms of life

Why? Because ***Christ has Victory over all Danger that comes the believer's way.***

I told you at the beginning of today that we were going to infuse some hope into your situation today...that today was for some people that needed a little victory in their life.

Whatever storm you are going through today...Jesus has given you the victory over that danger...He can be trusted in the storms of your life...why? Because just like in this story of the disciples:

- 1) You have His promise that you will make it safely to the other side**
- 2) You have His promise that He will be with you through every situation and will never leave you**
- 3) If you will keep your face turned toward Him, you will see that He is at perfect peace**

If you are in Christ, then not only do you have **Victory Over Danger**...but you also have...

2. Victory Over the Demonic

This life we live is far more spiritual than it is natural. The spiritual world...although unseen...is more real than you could ever know.

I like to say it this way...we have 3 forces at work in our world: **Satan, Society and the Savior. You better get on the Savior's side!**

The other 2 are there to destroy you...the Savior is there to save you and heal you.

Mark 5:1-4 (ESV)

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a **man with an unclean spirit.** ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for **he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him.**

Let me just stop right here and say this: **You may feel that the stronghold of the enemy in your life or in the life of your loved ones is just too strong. It has been winning in your life for years and maybe even decades...**

Well I'm here to tell you today...and I'm here to tell that unclean spirit...you're about to meet your match today...for the Master of all and the Conqueror of every enemy has come to town and He's about to put things back into order.

Satan, you and your minions, you are a defeated foe and we declare today that victory is ours in Jesus Christ...the blood of Christ that gives us strength...from day to day...it will never lose it's power...and it is that blood that was shed on Calvary that gives us Victory over the Devil.

As the song says...

*Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior forever
He sought me and He bought me with His redeeming blood
He loved me 'ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood*

Or as that other oldy but goody says:

*Would you be free from your burden of sin?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood*

*There is power, power, wonder working power
In the blood of the Lamb
There is power, power, wonder working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb*

Ok, that was a little praise break...back to the action...

Mark 5:5-13 (ESV)

⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶**And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him.** ⁷And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰**And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.** ¹¹Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹²and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

Never underestimate the destructive power of Satan and his desire to end you.

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)

⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, **seeking someone to devour.**

It is Satan who is at work in the lives of unbelievers...making them children of disobedience (Ephesians 2)...and this man had evidently through one bad choice after another and a rejection of God in his life came to a point to where he was completely controlled and possessed by the enemy.

When we deliberately make choices opposite of that which Christ wants for us and decide to live our lives to fulfill the lusts of the flesh and the pride of life...then we open ourselves up to work of the enemy in our life.

But I want to point out to you what Jesus did...what did He do for this man?

Well first thing is He graciously came to him in love...and even went through a storm to do it.

Remember I said this long passage of four stories had layers?...Check this out...in Mark 4:39 and here in Mark 5:8 and even in Mark 1:25, the same phrasing in the original language that Jesus used to rebuke and Calm the storm is the same phrasing that He uses with the man possessed with the demons. How many have a demonic storm in their life? He will rebuke it and calm the storm inside of you.

But not only did Jesus come to the man in love...but He even allowed the man to speak to Him. The people of his town had rejected the man and avoided him...but Jesus treated the man with love and even respect. Remember...the Bible says that Jesus came to “seek and to save the lost”.

A Roman legion at that time could be anywhere up to 6,000 men so when the demon in this man said his name was Legion...which means potentially that thousands of unclean spirits had tormented this man.

These demonic spirits had come to destroy this man...***but Jesus had come to deliver him.***

I don't care how far you are gone today...or how far your loved one is into the occult or perhaps just possessed and tormented because of opening doors to the enemy through sinful choices...Jesus has come to town...and whom the Son sets free is free indeed!

In Christ, because of Him and His majesty and power, ***we have victory over the dangers of this life, victory over the demonic...and as this narrative continues we see this:***

3. Victory Over Disease

I love this story...and it fits in so uniquely with the first two parts of this passage...

The crowds continue to press in on Jesus and clamor for His attention. ***So after Jesus delivers the demoniac, Jesus departs with his disciples to the coast; a great crowd follows him because they are “hearing all that he is doing”*** (Mark 3:8)

Among the crowds alongside the sea, a leader of the synagogue arrives, falls at Jesus' feet and ***“begs him repeatedly”***...again...***check this out...remember the layers that I talked about...how it all fits together...(the language exactly repeats that of the demon, Legion, in the previous story...came and fell down before Jesus)***...so this synagogue leader pleads for the life of his “dear little daughter” (“that she may be saved and live!”)

We are told that without a word of response Jesus “went with him” with the large crowd continuing to press on him, let’s take a look...

Mark 5:21-23 (ESV)

21 And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. ***22*** Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, ***he fell at his feet 23 and implored him earnestly***, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.”

Jairus was a ***“leader of the local synagogue.” This made him the caretaker and administrator of synagogue life.*** His job included safeguarding the scrolls, caring for the facility, organizing the synagogue school, and supervising the readers, teachers, and those who prayed.

Jairus would have been both religiously devout and highly respected in the community. None of the gospel writers identify Jairus as a member of the Pharisees, but his position in the synagogue meant he was intimately connected with the Pharisees of Capernaum. ***He was undoubtedly aware of the hatred the religious leaders had toward Jesus. Yet, he was willing to go public with his view of Jesus.***

When the life of his daughter was at stake, he knew exactly who to seek.

Jairus already had a strong belief in God, but story after story and testimony after testimony, witness after witness describing what they saw and how Jesus had healed them began to increase Jairus' faith in this Jesus.

Given the hostility Jesus had received from the religious establishment, the disciples must have been shocked when they saw a respected synagogue official making his way through the crowds to find Jesus. But there was an interruption to Jairus and Jesus' appointment...

Mark 5:24-28 (ESV)

24 And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ***25*** And there was ***a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years,*** ***26*** and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had ***spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.***

How many of you have tried all that the world had to offer to try and fix your issue? You've suffered much, you've spent all you had...and not only have you not got better...but you've got worse?

You need a miracle today...and this woman needed a miracle...

27 She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. 28 For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."

Maybe you are here today because you've heard about this Jesus guy...you've heard the reports...you've seen what He has done in others and you wonder if He'll do it for you.

This was a bold woman, who approached without a male sponsor and she was unclean (compare Jairus). ***Jairus was a person of nobility, she was an outcast!***

But, in light of her condition as one whose "impurity" (cf. Leviticus 15:25-30) could have cut her off from the religious community and from financial stability, she had to take a chance and dare to do something different.

I imagine her saying something like, ***"I was desperate, and Jesus, You were my last hope."***

And you know what's so unique? Both of these people, one wealthy and one bankrupt, their money meant nothing and could do nothing. The need made them both equal at the feet of Jesus.

Stop with me for a second while I show you some more layers...

Malachi 4:2a (ESV)

2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings.

"Kanaph" is the Hebrew word that is translated "Wings". But there is a broader meaning to that Hebrew word...check this out: "the extremity, edge, or corner of a shirt, skirt or robe"

So a better literal translation would sound like this:

"But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness will arise with healing in the fringes of his robe."

Isaiah 6:1 (ESV)

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train (Hem) of his robe filled the temple.

In His very presence there is healing...for He is healing itself...so this lady reached out to just touch the “kanaph” or the edges/the hem of His garment...

So what did this daring act of faith get this woman...

Mark 5:29-34 (ESV)

29 And *immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.* **30** And Jesus, perceiving in himself *that power had gone out from him*, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” **31** And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” **32** And he looked around to see who had done it. **33** But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. **34** And he said to her, “Daughter, *your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.*”

If we could read this passage in its original writing, you would hear the string of participles that build up, finally culminating in the woman’s action: ***“And a woman—having been bleeding for twelve years, and having suffered greatly from many physicians, and having spent all she had, and having benefited not one bit but rather having gone from bad to worse, having heard about Jesus, having come in the crowd from behind.....touched his cloak.”***

It didn’t matter what had defined this woman’s life leading up to Jesus...once she gets a hold of Jesus...everything changes!

I don’t care how many participles you have describing your situation...

It doesn’t matter what has defined your whole life...once you get a hold of Jesus...Once you touch Him and He touches you...everything changes! You will become a new creation and you will now be defined by who you are in Christ.

You are not defined by your Disease...but by your Destiny!

So we see that we have Victory over the Dangers of Life, Victory over the Demonic, Victory over Disease...and we are left with the last one...

Mark 5:35-43 (ESV)

35 While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, ***“Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”***

Way to show compassion and sympathy for a grieving father! A little Pastoral and Compassion Ministry training would be helpful here for these knuckleheads! Geez...***sometimes followers of Christ can be the most uncaring batch. Don't be those people!***

In essence they said, ***“Jairus, your daughter is dead and there is nothing Jesus can do for her. It's over.”*** ***From their perspective Jesus had healed a lot of people, but it's one thing to heal the sick, it's another thing to raise the dead.***

³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to ***give her something to eat.***

He takes the girl's hand (remember, touching a corpse makes you “unclean”), and with a couple simple words restores her to life.

4. Victory Over Death

Culturally, this girl was approaching the age customary for marriage. ***She was born in the same year when the woman began her incessant bleeding. Yet, in the same year both were healed. One stopped bleeding, which restored her life. The other had her blood restored, so that she could live again.***

Layers...hidden treasures in four stories that maybe you've never seen before...waiting there for us just to unwrap...for what purpose?

To show us that Christ holds the ultimate authority over all the evils and troubles that we will ever face in this life...including the biggest enemy Death. We have nothing to fear.

Don't forget context: Remember, ***the whole of the Bible is always about Jesus. What does Mark 4 and 5 show us about Jesus...***

Jesus has power over the Dangers of this life, the Demonic, Disease and Death

***And that means that if Jesus has power over those things then guess what?
So do you. Why?***

Romans 8:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but ***you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons***, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that ***we are children of God***, ¹⁷ and if children, ***then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ***, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

1 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! ***According to his great mercy***, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ ***to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you***

Close with altar time