

Battlefield Earth, Mark 4.35 - 5.20, pt.1

Introduction:

1. What I am about to teach is where I am today. I want you to listen to the Holy Spirit and be discerning about my words. I am fallible and a work in progress and I may very well be off. I think it is worth the risk of sharing it because the ramifications of it being true are incredible.
2. People dealing with loss, cancer, etc
3. The Flooding that has affected thousands
4. Hitler & the Jewish Holocaust

Common Responses

Here are the many clichés Christians say when bad things happen: The ways of God are mysterious; God's in charge and He has a plan; Well, I guess God needed another angel; "it's must be a part of God's will"; Everything happens for a reason," "God's ways are not our ways," "Nothing happens by accident," "God knows what he is doing," "God's timing is the right timing," and so on.

Are these statements even accurate as we apply them to the introductory illustrations?

Mark 4.35-5.20

- I am convinced the windstorm was a demonic assault against Jesus for five reasons.
- First, Jesus was headed across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes (aka Gadarenes & Decapolis – Ten Cities). He was headed there by design (He only did those things the Father told Him) for a conflict between demonic principalities who manifested themselves through a demonized man. It was God's will that this poor man be delivered and these principalities be broken. The man was oppressed, but the entire region was suppressed by the demonic.
- Second, The fierceness of the storm and the language of Mark indicate it was a sudden assault. Even the disciples who were fisherman were overwhelmed by the viciousness of the storm.
- Third, Jesus used the same language to rebuke the wind that he used to rebuke demons. The same words and the same tense.
- Fourth, the demonized man blanketed the area with fear. They were afraid of him, but even more afraid of what was in Him. I believe this was a major demonic power who had authority over this region. When Jesus defeated this principality it opened the entire area to the ministry of Jesus. This is very much like today when a witch or warlock has control over a city/region. The devil not only knew he would lose power but it would lead to the advancement of God's kingdom.

- The Lord's Resistance Army and the witch who protected Joseph Kony. George Otis' documentary, *Unconventional War*, chronicles this story of spiritual and military warfare.
- Fifth, the devil not only knew he would be delivered but that whole region would be unlocked for the radical advancement of the Kingdom of God. Satan was literally trying to either overturn or push back the will of God
- How would we – the normal American Christian - have responded to the wind of Mark 4, the demonized man of Mark 5 and the warfare of Joseph Kony?
 - The Wind - Just accept things as they are; turn around assuming it's not God's will; pray fear based prayers, used all might.
 - The Demonized Man - Put the guy on medication, ignored him, been fearful, called the cops, etc.
 - Joseph Kony - Used our military power, completely ignored the spiritual warfare around him, lived in fear, provided relief for the refugees, etc.
 - All three approaches are incomplete and don't factor in the work of the enemy as the true source of the natural and man made evil.

Genesis 3:15 – The Key

- This maybe the most important verse in the Bible in understanding every evil and awful thing that humanity faces, from personal issues, genetic disorders, natural disasters, to man made atrocities. Warfare between humanity and the demonic realm began with no abating until Jesus return. These are no small skirmishes but strategic and tactical warfare waged against all humanity.
- Humanity had authority/dominion over the devil. Adam and Eve did not have to believe the lie and they and we could be living in the world of Genesis 2 for all eternity.
- When they chose to sin, it initiated a war between humanity and the devil. WE are now in an ongoing battle for dominion of the earth.
 - After A & E sin, the earth was under the domain of the devil (Luke 4.5-7), but After Jesus' resurrection Jesus proclaimed, "Mt.28 – all authority in heaven and earth are mine."
 - The believer is now reinstated to his place and position before God that A & E occupied in Gen.1 & 2, but Satan is loose and he is thrashing about attempting to overthrow God's children and planet at every turn. ISIS is very much a demonstration of His activity – terrorizing, bondage, threatening, fear, plan to dominate, etc. Satan does this everywhere but it's usually more subtle.
- The second half of the verse is a prophetic proclamation about Jesus. From the offspring of the woman will rise One who will defeat Satan, but not w/o first causing pain.
 - We know we have authority over Satan – Luke 10.19; 1 John 2.13f, 3.8. Jesus crushed his head and we have victory over him as long as we understand God's perspective of the battle. God's battle timeline is not ours. We think this means our lives on this earth must culminate in a triumphant note of victory - .

- We know we are still in a battle with him – 1 Peter 5.8f; John 17.15. Rom.16.20. He has the power of death – Heb.2 – eventhough it is gutted of fear.
- We have overcome in the Evil One, but we're still in a battle with him.
 - **He is a snake who is writhing in the death throes of defeat, but he still strikes and that strike creates fear, pain and poison which can cause all kinds of hardships and trials.**

Big Idea: Every trial that is not self-inflicted comes from Satan.