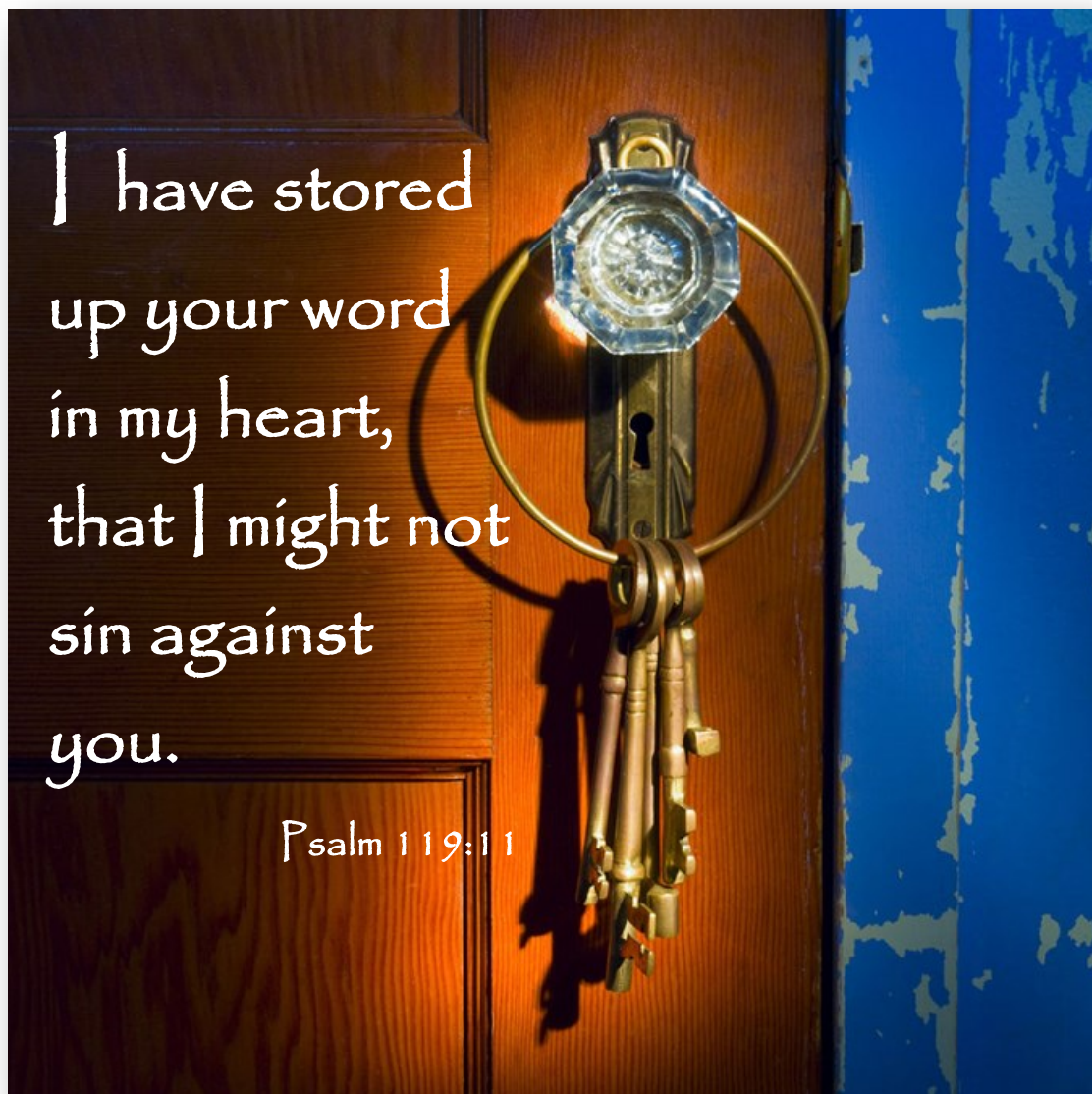


UNLOCKING THE WORD



THE GOSPEL OF MARK STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 5

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 5
STUDY FOUR

IN THE GRIP OF FEAR

MARK 5:14-17

“FEARS IN LIFE ARE LIKE PROPERTY LINES, THEY ARE BOUNDARIES FOR YOUR HEART, MIND AND SOUL. WHAT YOU HAVE TO DETERMINE IS WHO IS THE ONE SETTING THEM, YOU, SOMEONE OR SOMETHING ELSE OR GOD?”

—PASTOR DALE

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God’s Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words you’ve spoken from your word. I want to hear what you have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, you sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the fears of life be swept away by your power bringing the peace that surpasses all worldly understanding. Amen.

KEYS TO NOTICE

1. *A distinguishing mark of mature believers in Christ is that they fear God more than any other fear.* Jesus was relentless in His teaching about fear (worry, anxiety) that this life produces. His point was brief and clear: do not be fearful, do not worry, do not be anxious. That is possible because of the simple fact that God is real and He is responsible for ALL THINGS in a believers life. Satan will do all he can to tempt you into believing another false reality. **Think of fear this way: F-feelings, E-erroneously, A-appearing, R-real.** Fear has to do with loss or punishment. Jesus took all that for you, therefore there is nothing to fear.

IN THE GRIP OF FEAR
MARK 5:14-17

OBSERVATIONS:

Who are the characters in these three verses?

The guys responsible for this large herd of pigs told the people in the city and country. Assuming you had never seen anything like this before, how would you report what you saw?

Today a pig's value will range from \$75 to \$150. If you were responsible for that kind of money would that "bend" your reporting in a particular direction? Why or why not?

When everyone came to the sight of dead pigs floating in the lake and Jesus, sitting with the man now in his right mind, what was their response?

The demon's purpose was to control the humans they inhabited; Jesus' purpose was to give people freedom from sin and Satan's control. Why do you think the people were afraid instead of celebrating what had happened to the man? Could the response have been influenced by how the herdsman reported what had happened?

OBSERVATIONS CONT :

We can't know how many people came to see what happened but we can assume a herd of that size meant a large population. We can also assume humans were just as curious then as they are now... similar to wanting to see where the fire trucks are going. So why is it that so many begged Jesus to leave? What does this say about what people believe or want to believe?

INTERPRETATIONS:

There is a spiritual dimension to life. We are created in the image of God. God is a spirit, eternal, therefore we are more than just physical beings. There is more to this life than the material.

There is no power greater than Jesus Christ, He is God. Jesus commands the spiritual world. He is all authority and therefore God.

Jesus is relational, personal, merciful. Consider that the creator of all things would sit with a man who moments earlier was in total darkness. Sharing with him about the kingdom of God.

Fear is real and it manifests itself in either driving Christ away or drawing you nearer. Sinful fear will keep you in your sin driving you away from the very salvation you need. The fear of God will restore you to a right relationship with Him.

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Fear is a major component of this section. The herdsmen and people were afraid of what had happened, a new experience. How does fear of the unknown effect you?

Your brain constructs mental maps of life. Where there is no fear is usually where you've been in life, some experience that you can reflect on, a map. When you get to the edges of your map you stare out into uncharted areas. These are things you've never done or experienced before. What is an assumption about being afraid that makes you not want to go there?

The herdsmen and towns people were afraid seeing floating pigs, the man in his right mind and Jesus. In their fear they made the assumption that this must be hurtful or scary.

What other fears have you experienced and what assumption have you made to foster that fear? Example: Fear of abandonment, loneliness, rejection. Loneliness can be a false fear because you're not really alone. You're only alone when fear isn't coupled with safety or support from others.

Fear is real, there is no control switch in your mind to turn off and on so you are not afraid. How can you feel comfortable with being uncomfortable knowing Jesus is with you? What does it say about your faith when fear cannot be overcome?

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

What has Christ brought you out of from in your life before you came to your right mind and believed in Him?

Boundaries are a good way to deal with fear. They are like property lines of your heart, mind, and soul. A good use of fear is to have godly fear, allowing God's word to help set those boundaries to be afraid of the right things. Make them too small and you're afraid of most anything; too big and you open yourself up to getting hurt. You are the one who sets the boundaries and allows what is going to be on your property. So it's not the setting of boundaries that is the issue, but the fear of setting them or not and to the right degree.

For example, setting a good godly goal for yourself. Sometimes it's what's inside that makes it difficult to achieve the goal. Being afraid of failure or disapproval is the wrong fear. The right fear is to ask, "what if I don't do this?" A year from now I'll be in the same place. When the right fear is greater than the wrong fear, you'll move in that direction.

Take some time to examine your life and apply this. In the space below write down some good godly goals. What fear is getting in your way of reaching them? How can you set good boundaries to achieve your goals?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, let me be ever mindful that You are always with me. Grant me the power to overcome fear and live life to it's fullest. Let the confidence of knowing your boundaries give me peace in my life and let that peace be evident to all who see You in me. Amen.



BELONG. GROW. REACH.