

Union United Methodist Church

Sermon Outline: **Victorious Living in Christ 5: Covenant People, Have No Fear**

October 23rd, 2022. Pastor Michael Larbi

Readings: **Mark 5:21-24, 35-43; 1 Samuel 17**

1. Dealing with Fear: A Great Example by Jesus

This sermon is a continuation of the sermon from last week on exercising authority over fear. We start today with an example of Jesus responding to faith and dealing with fear.

- **The Lord Responds to Faith**

22Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." 24**So Jesus went with him.** Mark 5:22-24 NIV

- **Reaction to Bad News: Fear or Faith?**

"35While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" 36**But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."** Hebrews 2:14-15 NRSV

"Don't be afraid; just believe." NIV

Clearly, Jesus had to deal with what could stop the miracle the man desired - fear. Fear and Faith are opposite forces with different results. Fear cripples us and gets in God's way; Faith activates God's power and brings us needed grace.

This reminds me of what President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) during the great depression in first inaugural speech (1932):

"the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

- **Be Careful Who You Have Around You - Especially in a crisis...**

“He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.” Mark 5:37 NIV

- **Jesus Had Zero Tolerance for Fear & Doubt**

“When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, **Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.** 39He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.”40**But they laughed at him.**

After **he put them all out**, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.” Mark 5:38-40 NIV

2. Covenant People - Know Your Covenant, Fear Not

As Christians, we must never forget that we are in covenant with God through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for us. Jesus called His shed blood the “blood of the new covenant.”

19Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 20And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, **“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood”**
Luke 22:19-20

Divine covenants articulated in the scriptures always include divine protection, the Lord’s presence and help. Jesus promised to be with us (his disciples) always. We are also told in Hebrews 13:5-6:

The Lord “has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” 6So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” Hebrews 13:5-6 NRSV

When God reaffirmed his covenant with Abram in Genesis 15, he started by addressing the issue of fear.

“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” NRSV

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward” NIV

It was God’s reaffirmation to Abram, promising him:

- **Fear Not** (“Do not be afraid”)
- **Protection** (“I am your shield”)
If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31
- **Reward for his obedience and faithfulness**
“your reward shall be very great” NRSV
“I am ... your very great reward” NIV

3. David & Goliath - Great Example of Faith Over Fear

The story of David & Goliath is another great example of exercising faith and authority over fear.

- **Do Not Tolerate Words That Feed Fear**

Goliath “stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 10And the Philistine said, “Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together.” 11When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.” 1 Samuel 17:8, 10-11 NRSV

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

Israel allowed Goliath to feed them fear-filled words for 40 days, day and night, and they became terrified!

- **Fear to Panic**

Here we see the transition from fear to panic. After 40 days of feeding on Goliath’s words, Israel would now run at the mere words of Goliath.

23As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, **Goliath** by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and **spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. 24All the Israelites, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid.**

- **David Heard, Remembered Israel's Covenant with God, Reacted Differently**

26 David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**

Remember: Circumcision was the sign of the covenant of God with Abraham (Genesis 17).

- **Put Faith into Words & Action**

- **Resist Discouragement**

David's brother's were upset with him - v 28-30

- **Be Ready to Fight - walk the talk**

32David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

- **Count Your Blessings - v 33-37**

37David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!"

- **Know Your Weapons - Use Them Well**

39David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "**I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them.**" So David removed them. 40Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

- **Lean On The Lord, Hold On To Your Confession of Faith**

45But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand."

48When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

- **Make A Habit of Confessing Faith & Resisting Fear - Always**

David was in the habit of doing this.

Paul's bold confession in Romans 8 should always be in our mouths too:

"If God is for us, who is against us? 32He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

35Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."