

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

PASTOR STEVE'S Wednesday Devotional 7-24-19

There are lessons that were learned about some of Satan's strategies in spiritual warfare having studied the military strategies of some of the warriors of old. Psychological Operations is a form of warfare as old as the "Art of War." An early example of this can be found in the battle strategies of Alexander the Great. On one occasion when his army was in full retreat from a larger army, he gave orders to his armorers to construct oversized breastplates and helmets that would fit men 7 or 8 feet tall. As his army retreated he would leave these items for the pursuing army to discover. When the enemy would find the oversized gear, they would be demoralized by the thought of fighting such giant soldiers, and they would abandon their pursuit. Satan plays head games with us, too, often leaving us demoralized by fear, anxiety, insecurity and doubt. We assume Satan is bigger or greater than he really is. We are in a battle with an enemy who if he can't get us into hell will try to heap as much hell upon us as is possible in order to destroy and conquer us.

Mark 5:1-20 this is a case study of Jesus and spiritual warfare:

The enemy is confrontational (in your face): Mark 5:1-2 *Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,*

The enemy will try to defeat us in any way possible (He does not play by any rules of warfare): Mark 5:3-5 ... *who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.*

The enemy will never give up. He is uncompromising and callous in his pursuit of God's people: Mark 5:6-10 *When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me. For He said to him, Come out of the man, unclean spirit! Then He asked him, what is your name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion; for we are many. Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.*

The enemy is deadly (this is not a game to the devil): Mark 5:11-13 *Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, send us to the swine, that we may enter them. And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.*

There is healing from our wounds: Mark 5:14-15 *So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.*

1. Sitting: The posture of a man at peace with himself.
2. Clothed: Pictures the dignity of man.
3. In his right mind: The soundness of mind.

When we win a battle we need to proclaim what great things the Lord has done! Mark 5:16-20 *And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you. And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.*

Blessings!
Pastor Steve

