

“Family, Faith, & Freedom!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Memorial Day:** holiday to commemorate soldiers who died in war.
 - 1.1.1. We remember our **ancestors**, our **family members**, our **loved ones**, our **neighbors**, and our **friends** who have given the **ultimate sacrifice**.
- 1.2. **Outline:** Family – Faith – Freedom.

2. FAMILY! (19-21)

- 2.1. This further reinforced the lesson about hearing!
- 2.2. Why do you want to hear about the Word?
 - 2.2.1. Just to increase your knowledge?
 - 2.2.2. Or, do want to learn it, so you can practice it?
 - 2.2.3. 1 Cor.8:1 **“We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”**
- 2.3. **PHYSICAL KIN FOLK!** (19,20)
- 2.4. He wasn’t being rude to his family; He was using the occasion to teach a valuable lesson!
- 2.5. **Then he looked around in a circle at those who sat about him.**(Mark 3:34)
- 2.6. **SPIRITUAL KIN FOLK!** (21)
- 2.7. Those of Jesus’ larger family are those who both **hear** His word & **put it into practice!** [Response brings Relationship!]
- 2.8. **He meant** there is a **deeper kinship** than flesh & blood, a **spiritual kinship** which is characterized by **obedience** to the Father!
 - 2.8.1. **Of course obedience doesn’t originate relationship w/God**(faith does that), **but obedience is a sign of it!** (Kent Hughes)
- 2.9. **Jesus describes the New family which is far superior to the human family...for it lasts longer**(eternal); **it’s stronger; it’s more satisfying.**
 - 2.9.1. You’ve witnessed this. You meet someone, you find out they are born-again. You talk about Christ, ministry, His love. And you sense that warm wonderful feeling of **“family”!**
 - 2.9.2. **Q:** Do you have more in common with your **spiritual family** then w/your **earthly family?**
- 2.10. **God is pro family!** – Yet, we are presently watching the **disintegration of the family** melt right before us,...even in the church.
 - 2.10.1. We witness **2 extremes:** The **Lack of Love** for your family; & the **Worship of Family** (or domestic idolatry).

- 2.11. [1] **Lack of love!** Sociologists tell us that in the last couple decades the American nuclear family (A family unit consisting of a mother and father and their children) has been disintegrating & is accelerating at a rapid rate. **It has to change; no complex society has ever survived w/o a nuclear family!**
- 2.11.1. **Margaret Mead**, U.S. anthropologist. Quoted in: *New Realities* (June 1978).
 “Nobody has ever before asked the nuclear family to live all by itself in a box the way we do. With no relatives, no support, we’ve put it in an impossible situation.”¹
- 2.12. [2] **The Worship of family!** Jesus warned, “**He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.**”
- 2.12.1. **We must love & obey God 1st!**
- 2.13. **Hear & Obey**...don’t remain **standing outside**(his family)!

3. **FAITH! (22-25)**

- 3.1. **Outline: Crisis; Cry; Command!**
- 3.2. **CRISIS!** (22,23)
- 3.3. A severe squall threatens to sink the disciples!
- 3.3.1. **What’s threatened to sink you this week?**
- 3.4. Jesus certainly knew the storm was coming, yet He went to sleep in the ship.
- 3.4.1. They **knew** His word, “**let us go to the other side**” (not drown in the middle); but they did not **believe** when they faced this **life test**.
- 3.4.2. **It’s easy to learn the truth, quite something else to live it!**
- 3.5. **Crisis!** {comes from the Greek *krisis* “decisive moment”}
- 3.5.1. [1] **dangerous or worrying time:** a situation or period in which things are very uncertain, difficult, or painful, especially a time when **action must be taken** to avoid complete disaster or breakdown.
- 3.5.2. [2] **critical moment:** a time when something very important for the future happens or is decided.
- 3.6. **Crisis is a good thing...it helps people change!**
- 3.6.1. God knows that, & lovingly provides those times of crisis for us!
- 3.6.2. They can come in countless of forms: **disaster; catastrophe; emergency; calamity; predicament; job loss; spouse loss; child loss; etc.**
- 3.6.3. Issac Newton said in his *First Law of Motion* “**Everything continues in a state of rest unless it is compelled to change by forces impressed upon it.**”²
- 3.6.3.1. **No one is willing to do real change until real Crisis comes!**
- 3.6.4. **Some people will change when they see the light;**
Others change only when they feel the heat!

¹ *The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations* is licensed from Columbia University Press.

²Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.

- 3.7. **CRY!** (24a)
- 3.8. **We are perishing!** – “WE”? [Jesus is going to sink?]
- 3.9. Mark’s account – *“Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”*
- 3.9.1. **Imagine being awakened to that?**
- 3.9.2. Prov.27:14 **“He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, It will be counted a curse to him.”** [used on Kel when 1st married]
- 3.9.3. So, **does He not care?** Of course he does!
- 3.10. Maybe you’ve asked, “Jesus, why did you fall asleep at this important time in my life?”
- 3.10.1. Although God does not always **shield us from** the destructiveness of all life’s storms. He can always be trusted to **be there in the storm with us!**³
- 3.11. **COMMAND!** (24b,25)
- 3.12. **The miracle** – both wind & waves.
- 3.12.1. **Not only the wind above** the sea, but also the **current below**.
- 3.12.2. [I can’t even speak to the **Carbonation of a Pepsi** ready to run over the top of my glass, “no, no, no” & have it listen to me!]
- 3.12.3. **The creation obeys its Creator; it knows its God!**
- 3.12.4. His words were, “**Quiet, be still**” or “be muzzled” (same words to a demon earlier)
- 3.13. **His Rebuke!** – **Where is your faith?**
- 3.14. **There was obviously no need to wake him!**
- 3.14.1. Your boat can’t go down with Christ on board!
- 3.14.2. **Hymn:** “No waters can swallow the ship, where lies,
The Master of ocean, & earth, & skies.”
- 3.14.3. **The storm** couldn’t disturb Him, but the **unbelief** of His disciples did!⁴
- 3.15. “But Christ seems to be asleep! Don’t wake him. Don’t be panicked. And don’t imagine he wants you to keep the ark safe, or the boat up.”⁵
- 3.16. **Their Response!** – **Who can this be?**
- 3.17. From fear of the **storm**, to fear of the **savior**(*Who can this be?*)!
- 3.17.1. Maybe the more terrifying of storms...**Who is this!!!**
- 3.17.2. **No mere teacher, or prophet, or faith healer, He tames nature!**
- 3.18. Jesus showed Himself lord over the **Natural realm**, & **now** he will over the **Supernatural realm!**
- 3.18.1. They don’t even realize they’re heading right into another storm!

³ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.33

⁴ G. Cambell Morgan; pg.112

⁵ Ibid.

4. **FREEDOM!** (26-39)

- 4.1. **Outline: Cleansed; Clothed; Commissioned!**
- 4.2. **CLEANSED!** (26-34)
- 4.3. Jesus steps out of the boat & this man had run & fell at His feet.
- 4.3.1. Here's a creature you'd probably meet only in your worst nightmares.
- 4.3.2. How did this man *made in the image of God* become so marred?
- 4.3.2.1. Was he not some mother's little boy?
- 4.3.3. Now his body a beachhead for Satan, yet it is onto this beachhead that Jesus now lands!
- 4.3.4. Great, here we are near **tombs & pigs**, both *unclean* for the Jew!
- 4.4. "Like a **warm front** hitting a **cold front** head on, the forces of good & evil collide." Ken Gire
- 4.5. A legion(6,000) – Wow! I can't even imagine being possessed by *6000 fleas* let alone that many demons!
- 4.5.1. **What bondage:** naked; living in the caves/tombs; he was a "cutter" ("*cutting himself with stones*" Mrk 5:5); he was violent & couldn't be chained; and here he is *running at the boat* (Aaaaugh!)
- 4.6. Jesus freed him from their supernatural oppression.
- 4.6.1. Even demons **bow** before Jesus; Satan knows Him as **Lord of all!**
- 4.7. They begged Him to **not** be sent into the Abyss, but instead into the herd of swine.
- 4.7.1. **Why?** – They desire a host. [they want contact w/the material realm]
- 4.7.1.1. Satan will take a **pig** or a **man**; **if** he gets a **man** he will do his best to turn him into a **pig!**
- 4.7.2. **Why into the pigs?** – By this dramatic act this would show they actually came out & went somewhere else.
- 4.8. **CLOTHED!** (35-37)
- 4.9. He can calm a **tormented soul** as easily as he can calm a **tempestuous sea!**
- 4.10. Note the repetition of the word "begged"! (vss. 31,32,37,38)
- 4.10.1. The **demons** begged him, not the pit, but the pigs!
- 4.10.2. The **people** begged him, leave our country!
- 4.10.3. The **former demoniac** begged him, let me follow you!
- 4.10.4. **And Jesus answers yes** to the 1st two, & **no** to the 3rd.
- 4.10.4.1. **Yes** to the demons petition, **Yes** to the peoples, & **No** to the new convert???
- 4.10.4.2. **Is this how you'd treat** a brand new believer in his 1st prayer?
- 4.10.5. Wow, another **crisis of faith!**
- 4.10.5.1. He could tell others "I can't believe he wouldn't let me follow Him!"
- 4.10.5.2. Or, he could tell others *what great things the Lord has done for him!*

- 4.11. Some ask, “was it right for Jesus to destroy other men’s property?”
- 4.11.1. We ask back, “are we more concerned about the pigs, men’s property, or the poor man?”
- 4.12. Well, is it **person** or **pigs**? Which is more important?
- 4.12.1. The people were more interested in **Pigs**; Jesus in the **Person**.
- 4.12.2. The people were more interested in **Money**; Jesus in the **Man, & Mercy**.
- 4.12.3. They preferred **Swine**, over the **Savior**!
- 4.13. Regarding **the people** who asked Jesus to leave - how many **lives** were unchanged, how many **sick** not healed, how many **captives** went unreleased, **because** of a herd of swine was judged as more valuable than a human soul?⁶
- 4.13.1. We can hardly see the **man**, because we have lost our **pigs**!
- 4.14. **COMMISSIONED!** (38,39)
- 4.15. **Return to your house** – Mark expands, “*Go home to your friends. Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you (convey My Power) & how He has had compassion on you (convey especially My heart of love & compassion!)*”
- 4.16. This man becomes the 1st witness for Jesus in Gentile territory.
- 4.16.1. In his home town, & all the Decapolis.
- 4.16.2. What would it have helped to go on the “*I was once demon possessed church speaking circuit*”?
- 4.16.2.1. Instead, back home they knew him, & would quickly see a true change, rather than people who had never met him!
- 4.17. **Lessons:** The true battle for a soul is spiritual, always is!
- 4.17.1. Eph.6:12 “*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*”
- 4.17.2. Remember that **people** are not the enemy, no matter how mean they might be!
- 4.18. Maybe the Lord would have you take a beachhead of Satan for the kingdom of God this week? (Go in the strength of His might!)
- 4.19. Believers, we too have been **cleansed**(from our sin); **clothed**(in His righteousness); & **commissioned**(to tell the world our story, & His story)!
- 4.19.1. **Q:** Have you been **cleansed & clothed**?
- 4.19.2. **Q:** How are you doing in your **charge**?
- 4.19.3. **Q:** What **great things** has He done for you lately that you can tell others about?
- 4.19.4. Ps.9:1 “*I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*”
- 4.20. **Prayer:** Thank you for the **adoption** into Your wonderful eternal **family**!
- 4.21. Allow the storms in our lives to **strengthen us** **not** shipwreck us!
- 4.22. Help us now **cleansed & clothed**, to fulfill our great **commission**!

⁶ Ken Gire; Intimate Moments with the Savior; pg.41

While visiting the U.S. after World War II, **Winston Churchill** was aboard a train bound for Missouri with **President Harry Truman**. They were in a special car which had the **presidential seal** hung up on a wall. Truman noticed Churchill studying the seal and he pointed out that he had changed it so that **the eagle on the seal was turned toward the olive branch instead of the arrows**(1945). “Why not put the eagle’s head on a swivel,” suggested Churchill. “That way you could turn it to the right or the left, depending on what the occasion warranted.” Bits and Pieces, March, 19907

“You,” said the doctor to the patient, “are in terrible shape. You’ve got to do something about it. First, tell your wife to cook more nutritious meals. Stop working like a dog. Also, inform your wife you’re going to make a budget, and she has to stick to it. And have her keep the kids off your back so you can relax. Unless there are some changes like that in your life, **you’ll probably be dead in a month.**”

“Doc,” the patient said, “this would sound more official coming from you. Could you please call my wife and give her those instructions?”

When the fellow got home, his wife rushed to him. “I talked to your doctor,” she wailed. “Poor man, you’ve only got thirty days to live.”

⁷Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.