

Never Scared Part 2: Where is Your Sting

Hebrews 2:14

We **all have things that we are afraid of**. Every one of us has a worst fear. For many, their **worst** fear is death. For the believer, this should not be our worst fear but it happens.

Jesus had no fear, especially of death. **He saw death** on a regular basis and He **understood** that death was the **outworking** of the sinful condition of the world.

Death is a curse resting on the physical and intellectual and moral life of the natural man [Delling]

Jesus **encountered death** three times.

Once, He met a **widow who was from Nain**. They were in a funeral procession and Jesus sees this mother getting ready to bury her only son. The Bible says in **Luke 7 that Jesus felt compassion for her**.

There was a **reason** for His compassion. A **woman without a man** around in this culture was reduced to begging and sometimes even prostitution. He says to the woman, “**Don’t weep**”.

He **touched the coffin** and he said to the boy “Young man, I say to you arise!

When Jesus spoke, even death had to behave!

Shortly after this, Jesus encounters Jairus, a powerful synagogue official. **Jairus** has a 12 year old daughter at home sick. Jesus agrees to come to his house.

Before they got to the house, some of Jairus’ people came and said “**your daughter is dead, don’t trouble the teacher any longer.**”

But Jesus **commands Jairus**, “Don’t be afraid, only believe and she will be made well.

At the house, there were **professional mourners**. When Jesus says to Jairus and to the mourners, “**She’s not dead**, she’s only sleeping.” The mourners started **laughing!** But Jesus would have the last laugh!

They go up and **Jesus touches the little girl!** In Jewish culture, to touch a dead body was **prohibited**.

What Jesus is telling us here is this, **I cannot be contaminated by death!**

Can we push this further- what Jesus is telling someone here today is this: **Your situation doesn't scare me**, it doesn't **intimidate me** and **IT CANNOT DEFILE ME BUT I CAN CHANGE IT!**

I LOVE YOU ENOUGH TO ENTER INTO YOUR MESS AND BRING YOU OUT OF IT!

He **spoke** and told this girl to get up and death had to release its grip on this little girl!

Finally, we all know the story of **Lazarus**. He and his sisters were friends of Jesus. **Lazarus got sick and Jesus seemingly took His time to get here**. As a matter of fact, **Martha came to Jesus** and said "If you had been here, my brother would still be alive!" Jesus said to her, "He will rise again."

Martha thought Jesus was talking about the resurrection that happens later but Jesus was saying, He CAN GET UP RIGHT NOW!

I am the resurrection and the life! The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die...

They warned Him that it had been **four days** and his body was probably rotting by now.

Three days means you are **ALL the way dead**.

Four days means that you are **SHO NUFF dead!**

Yet Jesus, to show this miracle to the people, purposely got there a little late to make the miracle even more stunning!

He **told His disciples in the beginning** that this “sickness will not end in death but it will be for the glory of God, so that the **Son of God might be glorified by it!!**

Jesus **prayed** and He called **Lazarus out of that tomb!** Lazarus came out, still wrapped in the grave clothes!

Jesus is **saying this to us: I CONTROL** death and I'm able to do whatever I please because I'm God all by myself!

Not only did Jesus DEAL with death, because of His humanity, He also had to experience death.

We talked **last week** about Jesus being “never scared” and we talked about His not being afraid to submit to the will of God. His submission meant that He would have to face death.

There was a reason behind His death at Calvary.

He was not afraid of death, He came to take death's sting away!

1. The humanity of Jesus had a purpose (Verse 9, 14)

Jesus “**partook**”. He did so **actively**. He made a **conscious decision** to partake in flesh and blood just like those whom he calls His children!

The **divine made an active decision to commune with the common**. The God of the Universe made an active decision to condescend to us!

Verse 9 (READ)

We see that He was made a little lower than the angels. He was made to be one of US after He made the decision to condescend!

John 1:14 says that the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among men. **WHY WAS HE MADE FLESH?**

Because He was **on a mission!** A mission of **grace and love!**

He was **crowned** (from all eternity- **perfect** tense) with **glory and honor...**

He came **BY THE GRACE OF GOD**. **BY THE UMERITIED FAVOR OF GOD...**

HE MIGHT TASTE DEATH [ONCE]

HE DID IT ON BEHALF OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US SITTING HERE TODAY!

AND NOW He LIVES forevermore. He said in **Revelation 1:18** “I am the LIVING One. I WAS dead but look, I am alive forever more!”

Hebrew 7:25 “He lives FOREVER to make intercession for the saints!”

He tasted death for you, and me and you and you and you!

2. Jesus TOOK the power of death away from the devil (14b)

His humanity had a purpose and so did his death!

He took on flesh and blood to experience death. He came to taste death and by doing so, take the sting out of death!

He tasted death but death did not overcome Him!!

Death was the vehicle through which Jesus disarmed the devil!

The Bible says in **Colossians 2:13-15** that through His death at Calvary Jesus:

Forgave our sins, He **took** away our debt to the Law, He **nailed** it all to the CROSS...

AND He **disarmed** the **powers and authorities**...He **took** away their weapons...He **rendered** them powerless...He made them useless...He **paraded** them around like prisoners of WAR...

THROUGH THE CROSS!

He **became flesh and blood**, He tasted death to render powerless [make ineffective] the one who had the power of death! He had continual “dominion” over death!

The **one weapon** that the devil had, Jesus took that away from him! He did it by taking his best shot and getting back up!

He **looked death square in the face** and said “O’ death, where is your STING?!”

3. Jesus set those free who were afraid of death (15,16)

By rendering the enemy ineffective in the lives of believers, he **set believers free!**

Romans 8:15,16 “For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God...”

I need to make a point. Many of these statements are written in the **subjunctive mood**...these are not statements of probability...they are **statements of FACT!** These are the outcomes of what Jesus did on our behalf!

See, **death is a mystery** and what comes after death is unknown- therefore we fear death.

BUT BECAUSE OF JESUS, WE NO LONGER HAVE TO FEAR DEATH!

2 Timothy 1:10 says that Jesus ABOLISHED death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel!

What Jesus is telling us today is that the **mystery of death has been solved**. Believers know that after death there is LIFE through Christ!

There is **light** through Christ!

We shall **YET live** with Him if we die with Him!

The **mortal shall put on immortality** and the **corruptible** shall be made incorruptible!

4. The experience of Jesus was beneficial of US (17,18)

His experience makes us His brethren! He is the firstborn [pre-eminence] among many brethren!

His experience qualifies Him to render judgment upon mankind! The compassion of Jesus comes from a complete understanding of the human experience!

He is a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God! We are told in Hebrews 4 that because He is our high priest [the one who talks directly to God in the Holy of Holies], He can sympathize with us in our weakness!

Jesus [although all wise and omniscient] CAME to experience what we experience! He stepped out of glory, put on his coveralls and got into the muck and mire of the human existence! The transcendent one became mortal to take the sting out of death!

He made propitiation, He WAS the propitiation for us! He was the sacrifice that pleased God and turned away His wrath from every man who calls Him Lord and Savior!

Verse 18

He knows and therefore He is able to come to our rescue! He was tested and He was tempted!

People who endured Katrina can go to Houston and console those who have endured Harvey...because they've lived through this before!

People who have lost loved ones can console others who are enduring that same pain...because they've lived through it before!

Jesus, having endured the entire human existence, including death, is ABLE to be a helper when we need help, a shelter in time

of storm, a shield when we need cover...he is able to be our High Priest and intercede on our behalf!