COMPLETING THE SERMON

- ➤ How might knowing that our battle is not against flesh and blood cause you to deal differently with people in your life?
- Are there ways that you have ever treated people in ways metaphorically similar to how the townspeople treated the man at Gerasenes? What would be a better approach?
- Why might denying spiritual realities produce the same results on dealing with people as thinking that they are connected to a greater spiritual conspiracy which is out to destroy them?
- ➤ Was your view of spiritual warfare challenged or adjusted at all from these texts? How might this be applied in your life?
- How might Paul's understanding of spiritual warfare (Eph. 6; 2 Cor. 6) impact how we engage people with whom we disagree whether inside or outside the church?
- ➤ How would Paul's description of the warfare he was involved in call for patient endurance on the part of the saints?

Advancing the Gospel of the Kingdom: Kingdom Warfare, the Remake

Jerry Cisar — January 23, 2022

Text: Ephesians 6:10-12; Luke 8:26-39

Introduction

. David and Goliath, the Remake (Luke 8:26-39)

- A. The citizens of Gerasenes did not realize that the problem was not flesh and blood.
 - i. Jesus did not consider the man before him his enemy.
 - ii. The townspeople, like some of us, look at this man and see a demoniac, not a human. Not Jesus: He saw a man.
- B. What do you see?

The way our King deals with his enemies, His Goliaths, is first: he does not not confuse the flesh and blood before him as his enemy.

- C. The two extremes of spiritual warfare:
 - i. Deny spiritual reality.
 - ii. To confuse the flesh and blood before you as one with the spiritual enemies.

D. Who is your demoniac?

II. The Armor of God, a Retake (Eph. 6:13-20)

We put on the armor of God either through actions or preparation for actions bathed in prayer.

- A. Paul isn't the first one to speak of this armor. (Isaiah 59).
- B. Paul is telling us to clothe ourselves with a way of life that is the essence of kingdom, or spiritual, warfare.
 - i. The word meaning "fasten" the belt of truth was also metaphorically used to say, "ready yourself for action."
 - ii. Jesus defeated the devil by going about doing good (Acts 10:38). He wore righteous deeds, just deeds, right out there where you could see them most! And so should we!
 - iii. Our shoes are readiness to live-out the reign of Jesus everywhere His reign is proclaimed.
 - iv. The shield of faith
 - a) Whether flaming arrows, spears, or rocks, they were virtually impenetrable as long as they stayed together.
 - b) Eph. 4:3
 - v. The church is to wear salvation of every kind in such a way that when people see us, they see rescue!
 - vi. The sword of the Spirit

vii. We must do all of this bathed in prayer for we cannot do any of it in our own strength.

III. Spiritual Warfare, a Retake (2 Cor. 6:3-10)

Mao Zedong: "Revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture, or doing embroidery; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle, so temperate, kind, courteous, restrained and magnanimous. A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another."

A. Difference of end and means.

We must never confuse the "ways" of earthly kingdoms to be the "ways" of God's kingdom!

B. Jesus calls us to a different way of dealing with our opponents. Paul modeled this different way of dealing with his opponents.

C. Implications for Communication