

THE FINAL FRONTIER

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 Rev. Brian W. Secor
Broadway Christian Chapel April 19, 2015

We can never face death with neutrality.

1. It is the last enemy, the final frontier, the great intruder & destroyer of life. No matter when it comes, we don't like it, we don't want it.
2. It is all the more necessary that we as Christian believers get a theology of death & life from the Lord & the Bible that will enable us to deal with death in a way that brings healing & wholeness.
3. There comes a time when all of us must face our own mortality. From moment of our birth, we are moving towards the moment of our death with inescapable certainty.

Reason death has become so frightening is because that as a culture we have denied & lost the Christian perspective on life and on death.

1. Jesus is the resurrection & the life. In the face of death, he offers to us healing power that we find nowhere else.

I. JESUS GOES WITH US INTO THE FACE OF DEATH.

A. Jesus had just returned home.

B. We don't have to face death alone.

1. Death is one of the most stressful life experiences any one of us will ever have. But we don't have to face it alone. Through it, we can gain a deeper appreciation for Jesus, his pastors & his church if we allow ourselves to.
 - a. If a death is imminent in your family, call me as your pastor.
 - b. Invite other people to share the experience with you.
 - c. Invite Jesus himself to minister to you with his holy presence.
3. Both the living & the dying need the Lord's presence & the Lord's people to cope with death. To die peacefully, one must have peace with God.

II. JESUS URGES US TO IGNORE THE PESSIMISM OF OUR AGE & OF OTHER PEOPLE.

A. On the way, Jesus & the crowd are delayed.

1. While Jesus tarries, Jairus gets the awful news from his men. "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?" On the surface, it looked liked good advice.
2. Jesus must have heard them but he doesn't argue with them. He just ignores them.

B. Jesus teaches us to ignore pessimistic advice & keep on believing in him no matter what.

1. When people come to us dripping with pessimism, there is a time to ignore them just like Jesus did.
2. The essential key to facing death with hope & certainty is to keep on believing in Jesus.

3. Pessimism & negativism can be safely ignored when we have Christ as our guide. Death is not the end of life for us but the beginning of a great symphony of life that will be totally fulfilling for us in the land beyond time. Only believe. Keep on believing in him who will bring you home

III. JESUS HELPS US TO MOURN PROPERLY.

A. At this news, Jesus leaves the crowd behind.

1. Mourning is proper at death but these folks were mourning as those with no hope & ridiculing the only hope there was for life to come out of death.

B. Christian mourning is proper at death.

1. As Christians, we do not mourn as those without hope.
 2. We need to realize for whom we are mourning.
 - a. If decease is unbeliever, we need to mourn for him for he has gone out into a Godless eternity, bound for hell.
 - b. When a Christian dies, we don't mourn for him. He or she is in a far better place. We are actually mourning for ourselves because we aren't there yet.
 - c. We mourn for those who are mourning, those we know & love. We hurt because they hurt.
 3. We need to realize mourning takes time—one to three years.
 4. When we mourn, we mourn as those with hope because we know him who said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever lives & believes in me shall never die." Jn. 11:25-26

IV. JESUS DEMONSTRATES THAT HE IS THE LORD OF LIFE & ALL LIVING. v. 40b-43

A. Jesus came to Jairus' house to raise this girl from the dead & show his power over death.

1. Four things cause us terror & are uncontrollable by us: nature, demonic forces, disease, death. Jesus conquers them all.

B. Mark's point, which we must never forget, is that death yields before Jesus Christ.

1. Death is not the last word. The last word belongs to God. And Jesus is most assuredly God incarnate, God with us.
2. Death is God's servant, mercifully given to us in Eden.
3. Death can have a healing touch.
4. When Jesus Christ broke death's power on those four occasions in the Gospels, he showed that there is no power on earth be it nature, demons, disease or death that is mightier than he. He tore the bars away. He is Lord of life & in him, we triumph & we live. He has taken the sting & power out of death.