

# Weaving the Word

*Left in the Dark*

Part 67 – March 5, 2017

Welcome to where we're learning to leave the dark to live in the Light!



We're practicing enjoying our Father's stories like children. Why? Because, **the joy of the Word is our strength!** And, it's not natural for us to hear with our *heart* what *He* wrote with *His*.



Last time you imitated the pigs. Now you get to be the terrified townspeople, and beg Jesus to go away and leave you alone. But, it's not like you've never done *that* before. **Most of us at some point, in some way, have clearly said to Jesus: Just leave me to live my life how I like.** So, we shouldn't need much practice.



Jesus is establishing His kingdom with the Gentiles (*non-Jews*), *at night* to highlight the darkness surrounding all who live outside of it.

If you were here last time (or got the CD, or listened online), *you know* why Jesus is waiting while Legion is begging. Let's weave **Matthew 8:30-34 (purple)**, **Mark 5:9-17 (blue)**, and **Luke 8:30-37 (green)**.

"My name is Legion," ... "for we are many" ... And they begged Jesus *repeatedly again* and *again* not to *order* them to *go* into the Abyss. **Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding.** The demons begged Jesus ... *allow us to go into them.*" and he gave them *permission*. **He said to them, "Go!"** So the evil spirits came out [**shot out, like bats out'a Hell**] and When the demons came out of the man, they [**Scattered! And, they**] went into the pigs, and the whole herd about two thousand in number, rushed [**in the dark, unafraid of the water, terrified of Jesus, blindly charging**] down the steep bank into the lake [**Pigs on top of pigs! Pushing. Plunging. Pig divided against pig**] and were drowned. and died in the water. When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off, went into the town and countryside, and reported all this, and Then *the whole town* went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found *the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons*, sitting there, at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told how the demon-possessed man had been cured. and told about the pigs as well. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. **they began to plead with Jesus pleaded with him to leave their region.** So he got into the boat and left.

In the Sermon on the Mount, (Lk 6:27-35) **Jesus told the boys to love their enemies, offer their clothes, and give to those who can't repay.** Only Jesus got out of that boat. Only Jesus is on the beach with the Gadarene. And, for some reason we are told that Jesus left Capernaum in the boat without extra clothes. (Mk 4:36) So, **when the town comes out, guess who's undressed?** What a weird sight, and an incredible lesson. But, the townspeople are just freaked out that the terrifying Gadarene is no match for Jesus.

**They fear what He might ask of *them*, or *do* to them, or take away from them, because they don't trust the love He has for them.**

Because they're weak. *So weak. No joy. No Word. No understanding.*

[John was there, and he later wrote that] The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. – John 1:5 NIV



In fact, it *fears* it. Why? Because, **we fear the unknown, especially if it's a threat to whatever pigs we're clinging to.** So, **how well do you know the stories that Dad wrote for us ... *for you?***



**Is the joy of the Word your strength or your weakness?** Light destroys darkness. So, ***expect your darkness to fight the Light to its death ... or yours, whichever comes first.***



The scary thing is: **the longer we live in the dark, the less we *desire the light.*** The dark *will lose*; but, it *will fight.*

Remember how the boat ride to the gentiles purposely parallels the story of Jonah? On a sea. Deadly storm. Frightened sailors. Crying out. And, Jonah soundly sleeping. It doesn't parallel it by accident or coincidence; let's Return to Capernaum earlier that day, and see how Jesus said it *would.*

***Everything on this big day*** (when He's officially rejected by His own *as the devil*) ***is building to this big night when He first reaches out to the rest of the world ...*** and is asked to leave. He told 'em what would happen if the devil was divided and drove out his own demons – how they'd be divided and destroyed; and, how they'd know Jesus is God if He did all this by *pointing*. That was His chosen sign for them. And, then He told them how He was going to plunder the strong man's possession.

[Well, next (according to Matthew and Luke)] Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign, **But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.** [Signs lead you to something] For as Jonah was a **sign to the Ninevites,** [pointing this vicious gentile enemy empire to God] so also will the Son of Man be to **this generation** [of Gentiles, beginning with the Roman region across the pond]. For as **Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

In the belly of the beast, Jonah weaves different Psalms to paint a picture that points to Christ's death and resurrection, which gives Him the authority to calm every storm we'll encounter.



**Our storms are ongoing because our renewal is ongoing.** Because, our brain still contains all those neural networks of darkness.

So, after we confess it, reject it, renounce it, and repent, we must surrender and replace those dark old desires, beliefs, and motives with the light that can only come from God's Word.

**The only way to sever the ties of lies is with Dad's Sword.**

Because, **the only thing that can motivate true faith and trust is gratitude that comes from understanding the light of His love.** And, **if we don't practice with Dad's Sword we can't be confident in His overpowering love.**

And, if that's the case, we'll likely lose the battle, and be left in the dark, as Jesus sails away.

Because, in some way we'll ask our only hope to leave us alone.

From inside the fish Jonah prayed ... "In my distress ... I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ... The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ... But you brought my life up from the pit, O Lord my God. ... Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. – Jonah 2:1-8 NIV

And so, Jesus, like Jonah, is sent to establish the gentile nations who ignorantly forfeit the grace that could be theirs. **Do you forfeit the grace that could be yours?**

**This is what we do whenever we're faced with a choice between light and darkness, and we choose to cling to the darkness.**

Jonah was a sign that pointed those in the dark to the Light. Jesus deliberately points to Jonah while he wove God's Word inside the belly of the beast. And his words in that dark place point us to Jesus' death *and* to David's Psalm in 2nd Samuel 22. David wrote this Psalm 1000 years before Jesus' big day. And, **David's Psalm in 2nd Samuel 22 is a sign that points to the big night, when God calms a deadly storm, tramples a legion, has survived the attacks of His own people, establishes the gentile nations, and is met by frightened foreigners who come trembling.**

The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me ... he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. ... The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness; **according to the cleanness of my hands** he has rewarded me. **For I have kept the ways of the Lord ... [CONTINUED LATER]**

Okay, I just *have* to interrupt, because we have *to* return to Capernaum that morning. Remember when Jesus had brunch with the Pharisees and teachers of the Law? As if healing on the Sabbath wasn't bad enough, **He doesn't wash before eating *after* touching the dying and demonic and diseased.**

The Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised. Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." – Luke 11:38-41 NIV

Greedy and filthy like ... *pigs!* In fact, Jesus was referring to *them* when He warned His disciples, in His *love-your-enemy* teaching, not to cast their pearls to pigs; or, they'll trample 'em in the mud and tear you boys to pieces.

Don't feel bad for the pigs. They were headed for market. Jesus just saved the handlers *tons of work*. Got 'em to the loading dock. Washed 'em up. Even brought out a whole town to help out. In the light of day, they probably thought: "Well, *that* worked out nicely!"

Just before brunch, after offering the sign of Jonah, Jesus tells 'em about the lamp that is God's Word that comes in through our eyes to light the darkness inside us. (Lk 11:33-36)

Now, back to David's Psalm; that Jonah's sign points us to; that Jesus pointed to *that day*; that points us to this very moment:

***You are my lamp***, O Lord; ***the Lord turns my darkness into light***. With your help I can advance against a ***troop***; [that's Hebrew; in Greek, it's *legion*] ... [God's] way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God? ... ***you made my adversaries bow at my feet***. You made my enemies ***turn their backs in flight***, and I destroyed my foes. They cried for help, but there was no one to save them — to the Lord, but he did not answer. ... ***I pounded and trampled them*** like mud in the streets. You have delivered me ***from the attacks of my people***; you have preserved me ***as the head of nations*** [Jew and now Gentile]. People I did not know are subject to me, and ***foreigners come cringing to me*** ... They all lose heart; they come trembling from their strongholds ... Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior! He is the God who avenges me, who puts the nations under me ... You exalted me above my foes; from violent men you rescued me. Therefore I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing praises to your name. [Like *this very Psalm*] He gives his king great victories [over storms and monster waves and dark forces] ... – 2 Samuel 22 NIV

**Even over our own heart ... to the *degree* we invite Him to stay.**

Of those who witnessed Jesus' power that night, the Gadarene was right in the Light, while the rest were left in the dark. **The Gadarene is set free, while the villagers remain in bondage.**

**Don't forfeit the grace that could be yours.**