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Sermon preached by Pastor J.W. Tyler,
on Thursday Evening.
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Lesson. Mark 5.

Be not afraid, only believe. Mark 5. 36.

The first three evangelists narrate the circumstances of a trio of cases that are so wonderfully interwoven and interlaced, how the Lord in pursuance of His divine decrees, and exercising His sovereign authority and almighty power and divine compassion, manifested mercy and love to the three cases so there was a wonderful, harmonious summary,- the healing power of the Lord, and I am disposed to declare, the healing energy of the dear Lord both in soul and body. Some have questioned this. They have assumed that a number of miracles were wrought only for the restoration of the human body. I must postulate immediately,- take the three cases; not only did the Lord in a miraculous manner, full of all compassion and filled with almighty power, heal and restore dreadful disorders of the mind and of the physical frame and bring one back from the dead: it is evident from the whole of the blessed terminology He also effected spiritual blessing, divine healing to the soul and body.

If I make an initial reference to the three cases because it has an application that is current, namely: dear seeking souls before the Lord tonight,- you all who fear Him and have some urgency in your spirits, desire to receive the heavenly virtue, divine compassion and mighty love of the Saviour. It would be a disappointment to you to see one soul healed and you remain unhealed. There is something that is remarkable to me, and it is expressed in the hymn:

"Midst all His vast concerns,
He could not me forget." (659)

Think of the concerns of the Lord in heaven with all the glorified saints and the holy angels! Think of His concerns in the vast universe,-

infinity, eternity! It surpasses all human sagacity. You have only to gaze into the firmament on a clear night and look at the stars and all the heavenly orders, and you gaze on infinity and realise you can go on and never come to an end in space, yet all are rotating in perfect order! Think of His vast concerns in the whole Creation and in this planet,- the atmosphere, the climate, rainfall, sunshine, the bestowing of food and all that is needed by all living things! When you think of all His vast concerns, those relative to the tremendous world population, God is concerned in divine Providence with the whole human race! We believe in divine government: "and the government shall be upon his shoulder." (Isa. 9.6) The Lord reigneth over monarchs, rulers, princes, men, events,- vast concerns!

Now to make the application. I will deal with it in an exclusive manner, that is to say, the dimensions of the Covenant of Grace. All on the face of the earth, His creatures and His dear sons and daughters, looking up to Him, lifting up their hearts with their hands unto God in the heavens, (Lamentations 3.41) a vast multitude round the world and of course, those yet in the womb of the everlasting Covenant to be brought forth: those who know Him, those He loves who know Him not. He gives them a being, preserves them when they are making haste in a sinful course to hell,- everyone of them. So every poor sinner on this planet tonight in the broad road to destruction,- think of God's concern over them. When they are within an hair's breadth of destruction and escape by the skin of their teeth,- think of His vast concerns over the whole body of His dead elect!

Do you ever ponder the vast concerns of God? It is a vast concern of love immutable, divine, ineffable, sovereign, free. Take the area of those round the world tonight who love and fear Him; the sick, the wounded, the dying, the lonely, solitary, perplexed, despairing. In all the concerns of life from birth to death, all the weight of it rests on God: not only the tiny company here; a whole number round the world, lifting up their eyes, shedding tears, pleading with the Lord for mercy help, wisdom, healing, direction, blessing. To think with all the vast number looking to the Lord for blessing, deliverance, healing, help,

comfort, guidance, favour, provision, protection, that He remembers them all personally! We are only like tiny specks of dust yet most precious to Him. How He loves His people, because they are His portion, His bride, His family. To think that He remembers this poor sinner, you and me! and He not only remembers us in major things and crises, but in the minutest circumstances! Here is the whole tapestry of life,- mercy and judgment. "With mercy and with judgment, My web of time He wove."

So how wonderful it is to come to a realisation that He loves me, cares for me! I am His. The Father put me into His blessed hands. He redeemed me. He is King. He rules my life, heart, circumstances. You can say, even me. It absolutely overwhelms me in wonder, love and astonishment that the great, almighty, omnipotent Being of Jehovah remembers me. Of course this is communicated to us through the prophecy of Isaiah: "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." (Isa. 53.11) Looking down from the beginning of time, through all the centuries and generations, and recognising and knowing all His dear children and all concerning them ordered by Him. "In all things ordered well." (411) What a subject! We shall know the fulness of it through eternity,- when we get to heaven and throughout a blissful eternity. This is a little introduction,- it is an infinite one.

I will go further and ask the friends, do you feel conscious that the great God is concerned about you? and that He has ordered everything for your good, peace, profit, comfort and blessing, and for His glory? He is interested in every moment of your life, your crises, your fears! It is amazing that the great God knows when you fear and condescends to deal with your fear. This is most beautiful. "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." (Psa. 48.14) I am bold to say He so displays His loving care over us that it becomes clear as a sunbeam. You say; "Yes, He is my Father. There is no doubt ~~an~~ about it because I can appreciate the summary of the 107 Psalm. "Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, - and you do observe them.- even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the Lord." At the same time He is rolling the stars along: He gives life and breath to all things. I did not expect to spend time on this. I am speaking spontaneously, and I am thankful because it highlights our concerns.

Presently you will hear Amen, and soon you are home and back in your own lot, some to an empty house. Some are widowers or widows: some have the family under their roof. There are the old and the young: some have physical infirmities, some are strong. How amazing that the Lord has infinite knowledge and care over every one; every moment in eternal continuity. I reiterate: you go back to your lonely place, with your failing health, your fears, difficulties in Providence, your family trials and perplexities. While you desire the Lord to attend to the cases of His dear people you hope He will attend to yours as well. Now you see the background of the chapter. He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil." (Acts 10. 38) O I do love my Saviour! Every day He went about doing good. I want to emphasise the important gospel facts. I feel they are of the utmost value: unfathomed for blessedness. In this inspired volume we find an outstanding principle. No one ever went to Him and came away without a blessing: no one. As they came He remembered, blessed, healed. It is the same to day. If you are favoured to come to Jesus you will never be sent away without His divine blessing. This is a most heart-warming truth. It is not in one denomination, not in one country; it is universal. "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Acts 2.21)- always assuming it is living, vital prayer, not something superficial.

So how wonderful! There were some who could not get to Him themselves; they were carried or taken by others and they received a double blessing those who took them and those who were brought. You cannot find a case where one needy soul was sent away. We see something of the various methods of dealing with their cases, and the Lord had a purpose in this. There was the woman from Syria who met with great discouragement, - if we view it on the surface, and I have reason to say this. When He answered her not a word that was the first strata. While He answered her not a word deep down He increased her faith. This is an amazing thing. We have got to view it on various levels. The disciples said: "Send her away; for she crieth after us." He so increased her faith, and not only that, He gave her the language He could never deny. He not only gave her the language, but the stance of soul. "Then came she and worshipped him." (Matt. 15) No poor sinner who is favoured to worship Him will be sent away unblessed.

So there is something beautiful and pleasing to my spirit to promulgate, to sound round the earth,- "Who of mercy needs despair, Since I have mercy found?" (775) It is not exclusive to a few people; it is to all He loves. But in the manifestation of His choice all ^{will} be praying, seeking, crying souls. This is it. I must apply myself to the chapter. The first case came unsought. I must clarify that. I am thinking of the mad Gadarene: as far as he was concerned the Saviour crossed the sea for him.- In another case "he must needs go through Samaria." (John 4.4) The Lord knows where His chosen are. He goes over the sea: there is a man will meet Him. "Immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He went over the sea for him, my friends. You can be well assured the Lord will claim all those for whom He died. "He's mine;- she's mine;- I bought him with My blood." (106), and you will claim Him. This is a taste of heavenly bliss. It is another manifestation of Tuesday. (Isaiah 41.13) The hand, the organ of prehension, is not complete until there is a clasped hand. "Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God. That shall be better to thee than light and safer than a known way." There is a clasped hand, oneness, union.

So He crosses the sea for this man. What about you? Did He for you? He crossed the sea of His Passion for you. I am sure all the waves and billows went over Him for you,- for one wild man. How amazing! He was to be pitied, was he not? He was possessed of a devil. Immediately the Lord wrought he was filled with the Spirit and he became one of the monumental characters described in the beautiful language that is desired by every gracious person,- "sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind." I should say when the Lord came to the ship to return,- He had accomplished His mission of mercy and fulfilled the divine decree,- the man wanted to go with Him. He said:"Go home to thy friends, and tell them,- publish it." If only people would tell. They can't unless they have got something to tell, but they may have something to tell and keep it. "Go home to thy friends, and tell them." How heart-warming are one or two sentences to prove that one's labour is not in vain in the Lord! God is no respecter of persons, but it is encouraging to notice there were some eminent people as well as the lowest. Though as to their ruined state they are on the same level, concerning the distribution of talents honour is due to those

who exercise authority over their fellow creatures by divine appointment.

We have here a ruler of the synagogue, and he was obviously a gracious character. The dear man had one daughter, and no doubt about it, he had twelve years of sunshine with her. She was the sunshine of the home. There is something almost ethereal and angelic about some children. It is something so unspeakably sweet you almost feel, will they be long in the world? How wonderful: twelve years of sunshine! It is wonderful when a child is a ray of sunshine to the parents, a loving spirit, a grateful heart, and the little daughter was like that: we know from the words used, "Talitha cumi." This is really translated, "Little lamb, arise." I do not hesitate to declare there was great lustre in the life of the little girl. The blow came: the heart-rending stroke fell. She was very ill, on the point of death. Immediately Jairus goes to Jesus.- How many times have you?-- There are crises in your lives when you are praying all the time. You don't stop day and night: there is no cessation. So he came to Jesus, acting under the fear of God. It is an amazing thing, it is unique: the Lord did not delay. The man with faith said: "I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live." I do not believe he thought only in terms of natural life. There was no question of delay; Jesus went straightway. There was an intervention; an interruption. There was another poor soul with an issue of blood. She was emaciated: she had had twelve years of agony and she interrupted, as it seems on a human level. So she got the blessing: she was restored. They came and said: "Thy daughter is dead." Poor man, what agony he felt; the poor woman getting the blessing and being healed. "Thy daughter is dead: why troublest ^{thou} the Master any further?" He must have felt this was the end of reason and of all human hope. "It is all over.

My text is the context. The Lord did not delay. He knows when you need it, and He will give it you. As soon as He heard the word He said two things, "Be not ^{afraid}, only believe." Fear, as you know, is a paralysing, painful, distressing emotion aroused by something apprehended of impending evil or disaster. The man was filled with apprehension; in fear, afraid. Some of us know what this is. The Lord speaks. There is one thing to say here. It is a word of power divine. Jesus speaks to thee in the hour of

distress and sore agony; when you are fainting and dying: "Be not afraid." When the Lord speaks it means the divine power of His word removes your fear. The secret is, you are not afraid because He is there with you, in your heart. You have got your Jesus, as Simeon embraced the Babe. He is there: all fear is dissipated. "Only believe," and the Lord giving faith and being there you will believe, not only with a degree of faith to credit what He said, but with adherence and assurance. There is not a cloud in the sky. "Only believe." He will do all for you that He has projected to the vision of faith. In the case of the dear girl it was to bring back her spirit into her body, and certainly she should live eternally. Amen.