

Wednesday, 10/9/96
Gettysburg, PA

Be of Good Cheer

Intro:

1. Christians should be the happiest people on earth. For us, like for everyone else, the bad things in life interfere with our happiness.
2. Happiness and contentment will not come from **circumstance** but from **attitude**.

1. Some Things That Trouble Us

A. Sin - Mt 9:2.

1. This man had been let down through the roof - Mk 2.
2. He was paralyzed but apparently Jesus knew his greater concern - guilt.
3. Forgiveness is a source of joy, liberty, emotional and spiritual health.

B. Sickness - Mt 9:22.

1. This woman had been sick 12 years and had exhausted her funds - Lk 8:43.
2. The woman was frightened to reveal herself - Lk 8:47.
3. Jesus wanted her to be happy; He did not scold her for getting relief.

C. The unknown - Mt 14:24-27.

1. Some things we fear the most are not even **real**. Illus: As a kid, vampires, werewolves, house creaking, etc.; superstitions - breaking mirrors, #13, etc.
2. Another aspect of the unknown: the future. "Will I get the job?" "Will my children marry well?" "Will I have income at retirement?"
3. The disciples feared the unknown ("ghost"), then Peter feared the known (storm - v 30) even in the presence of Jesus. Both of these fears are due to being "of little faith." What we know of God/word should give us comfort and courage.

D. Insignificance - Mk 10:46-52.

1. Blindness - "The dust, the glare of the sun, the unsanitary habits of the people spread contagious eye-diseases" (Robertson).

2. Bartimaeus was just another blind beggar with little hope of an audience with Jesus. Illus: Those calling to Princess Diana to come and receive flowers.
3. But Jesus heard him and not only healed him but said, in effect, "You are somebody; you are important enough for me to stop my journey and hear you."

E. Threats from others - Ac 23:11.

1. Paul had been nearly killed by a mob, raised the ire of the Jewish high court and has a plot laid against his life (v 12-13).
2. Surely Paul felt the whole world was against him at this point. But God had a purpose for Paul that no amount of opposition could offset.
3. *Let us not judge our worthiness by the number of enemies we have.* Some will not like us because we are doing what is right and they feel threatened.

F. Tribulation of the world; a sense of powerlessness - Jn 16:33.

1. This fear of others would scatter the disciples and Jesus would be alone - v 32.
2. The world - and its prince, Satan - will throw everything against us. At times it will seem so powerful that we might ask, "What good am I doing?"
3. But Jesus said, "*I have overcome the world.*" It cannot forcibly dominate us or prevent God's will from being done.

2. "Be of Good Cheer" - A Command

- A. In every case, "be of good cheer" is in the imperative mood - a command.
- B. We choose to control ourselves or let circumstances control us.
- C. The difference will be in our attitude toward God and Christ:
1. Sin - *Complete* forgiveness in the cross.
 2. Sickness - God's ability to heal; His knowledge/allowance of our condition.
 3. Unknown - God's total awareness. We have nothing to fear; God already knows.
 4. Insignificance - "The Lord knows those who are His" (2 Tim 2:19).
 5. Threats from others - God defends His people and enables them to do His will.
 6. Power of evil - Satan's dominance has been neutralized. Jesus has overcome.