

12.05.10 / Isaiah 9:6 (supporting text: Hebrews 1:1-4)**Passage Insight**

This is the second week of Advent, and we are focusing on Jesus as Mighty God. Scripture is powerful to speak for itself. Let's look at some Scriptural evidence of Jesus' might, or power.

Mighty to Create

John 1:1-3

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Mighty to Sustain

Hebrews 1:3

"... he upholds the universe by the word of his power."

Colossians 1:17

"...in him all things hold together."

Mighty to Control the Natural World

Mark 4:39

"And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Jesus 11:43-44

"When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'"

Mighty to Rule All Things

Matthew 8:29-32

"And behold, they cried out, 'What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?' Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, saying, 'If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.' And he said to them, 'Go.' So they came out and went into the pigs..."

1 Peter 3:21-22

"... Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him."

Revelation 17:14

"...he is Lord of lords and King of kings."

Mighty to Save

When the Father sends us to Jesus, we can count on the fact that Jesus will save us:

John 6:44

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."

Jesus has the power to reveal the Father to us:

Luke 10:22

"All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Jesus has complete and total capacity to control that which we cannot control, and it is this simple truth that juxtaposes our sinful nature against His divine nature. We are weak, and He is mighty. The beautiful truth is that our weakness is actually our life's catalyst for seeing God's power and strength made perfect in our own lives, as we see in Paul's life when he suffered due to the thorn in his flesh. Of this thorn, 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 says, "Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." This dreaded weakness actually displays the power of Christ and becomes a reason to praise God. Recognition of our weakness helps us see the mighty power of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the most calming evidence of Jesus' power and might is not in His mighty acts, though they are many, but rather in His quiet authority over all things. In Matthew 28:18, Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." This statement of complete and total authority precedes the great command that we as His disciples are given to introduce the world to Him that they too may become His disciples and obey Him. We rest in our weakness, knowing that in this weakness we will see the might of our Lord made perfect.

Application Questions

Mighty to...

- 1) Where do struggle to see Jesus' might (in your own life, the lives of others, your job, your relationship to your parents, somewhere else)?
- 2) How is this affecting your relationship with God?
- 3) Jesus' might is all encompassing and unlimited, while our own capacity for understanding the things of God is still limited while we are being transformed into His image (this transformation is a process). How can this limitation drive you toward God instead of away from Him?

Our Weakness

- 1) Where do you run from your weaknesses or try to hide them?
- 2) How do you try to compensate for your weaknesses by your own strength?
- 3) As we see in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9, the Lord's power is made perfect in our weakness. What might come of an honest recognition of your weakness rather than running from it or trying to compensate for it?
- 4) How will you pray differently as a result of this truth?
- 5) How will you live differently as a result of this truth?

Leading Us To Make Disciples

- 1) Where does your life demonstrate a belief that authority lies with someone other than Jesus (your boss, yourself, your parents, your spouse or significant other, etc.)?

- 2) What would look different about your life if you truly believed Jesus has the final word on all things?
- 3) What idols do you need to destroy to move toward this?

Sources

- Prayer
- Bible Speaks Today