

Don't forget your Graveyard

Mark 5:1-5

Deuteronomy 8:11

- I. We have graveyard points in our history.
 - a. Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:
 1. He lived among the Tombs
 2. He was often chained
 3. He was "Un-tamable"
 4. He Met Jesus
 - b. Black History has a lot Grave Yard experiences
 1. In late August 1619, a shipment of "20 and odd Negroes" arrived on a ship to Virginia. They were not the first Africans in Virginia, but this human cargo is widely viewed as the beginning of slavery in the English colonies.
 2. The Dred Scott Decision was landmark decision by the Supreme Court in 1857 that effectively ruled that slaves were property. The Dred Scott decision of 1857 ruled that enslaved African-Americans were property and had no rights.
 3. February 21, 1965 Malcom X was assassinated
 4. March 7. 1965 Alabama Highway Patrol troopers attack civil rights demonstrators on the Edmund Petus Bridge in Selma, Alabama
 5. April 4. 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr was assassinated
 6. On January 6, 2021, supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump stormed the United States Capitol. The event occurred during a joint session of Congress during which the Electoral College vote was to be certified, affirming the results of the 2020 presidential election, which Joe Biden won.
 - c. Black Culture continues to have Grave Yard experiences

1. Black are twice as likely to be arrested as Whites.
Black violence against Black is way too high.
 2. Approximately 28 percent of Black men will serve a prison sentence 25 percent will enroll in college.
 3. Blacks still struggle to own property and build generational wealth.
 4. In all areas of Black Life WE CAN DO BETTER.
- II. Do not let your grave yard experiences determine your value.
- a. Value is determined by market price. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.
Matthew 10:29-31
 - b. Value is determined Sentimental Factors. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16
 - c. Value is determined by "Rarity" Factors. But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10
- III. In spite of your Grave Yard experiences you can appreciate yourself worth.
- a. Remember your union with Christ.
 1. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. John 15:5
 2. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His

grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10

- b. Know that it is God that works in you.
 - 1. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. Psalm 118:22-23
 - 2. for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13
- c. Depend on your source of supply and potential for fruitfulness.
 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. John 15:4-5
- d. Affirm your enabling from God.
 - For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

IV. Do not allow your Grave Yard experiences to stop you from Looking forward.

- a. The Gadarene's story included a look forward
 - And when He was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed Him that he might be with Him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. Mark 5:18-19
- b. "I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.
- c. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works*

than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
John 14:12

- d. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14
- e. If He did it Before...! David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. 1 Samuel 17:37
- f. We shall Overcome...