

Week 6

PICK A NUMBER 1049

“You have nothing to fear from him” (Mark 10:49).

Her name was Tiffany. She was seven years old. Years earlier I performed the marriage ceremony of her parents. Before Tiffany was born, her father died in a tragic farm accident. When Tiffany was about five, she was diagnosed with a life-threatening ailment. She was a strong, brave little girl. As a priest and friend I visited her knowing she will never be eight. I must have looked terribly upset and distressed. Tiffany looked up at me and in not much more than a whisper said, “Father, don’t be afraid.”

Wow. “Don’t be afraid.” Most profound when a child says it to an adult, when a very young girl says it to her priest, and when the dying say it to the living. God’s words so many times, “Be not afraid, fear is useless, you have nothing to fear; why worry about such things.”

A few days later Tiffany went into a coma. For one week she never moved nor spoke. When her day of glory came, her mom was at her bedside. Suddenly, Tiffany raised her arms straight up and in a soft voice said, “Mommy, I see him.” Then her arms gently came down and Tiffany was with Jesus. “Father, don’t be afraid.”

Why do we fear? Why do we worry? Remember the old Chinese proverb?

Pick a Number

The legs of a stork are long and the legs of a duck are short. You cannot shorten the legs of the stork nor can you lengthen the legs of the duck. So why worry about it?

We fear parting with life, with good health, with money and things we own. We worry about things beyond our control. We worry about parenting, the dangers for our kids, the unknown future. So often we fear what might be, what could happen, whether it does or not. Norman Cousins in his book, *Modern Man is Obsolete* wrote, "When we find no answer we find fear." But we do have an answer. We have an answer in our faith. Tiffany had an answer in her Lord.



One time a mother was worried about a number of things and asked her little daughter to pray with her about the things she was worried about and they prayed together. About an hour later, Mom still expressed some of her worries. Her daughter said, "Mom, I would think you could either worry or pray, but not do both."



This one is more cute than anything. The little boy was asked to carry the empty soda bottles to the basement. The basement was dark. He got about half way down the stairs and called back, "Mom, I'm scared!"

The boy's mother said, "Don't be afraid, Jesus is with you."

The boy went a couple more steps and said, "Mom, it's too dark."

Again his mother said, "Go on, Jesus is with you."

The boy hesitated, took one more step, set the bottles on the step, and said to himself, "I'm going to let Jesus take them the rest of the way."

Let's look at the Bible story that produced our opening quote: "You have nothing to fear from him." The man was blind. The people around him tried to make him shut his mouth. He kept crying out, "Son of David, Son of David." The man knew the Savior was to be from the line of David. What he was saying was, I know who you are, Jesus. Without laying eyes on Jesus he laid faith on Jesus. Though blind, he could see what the seeing did not see.

Jesus knew that this blind man recognized him and said to the blind crowd, "Bring him over."

The people then changed their tone toward him and said, "You have nothing to fear from him."

And Jesus, laying eyes on a man who had not yet laid eyes on him asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Wow. What a question to be asked by our Savior. Sometimes in moments of weakness we wish we could lay eyes on Jesus. Yet, if we will lay faith on Jesus, we will get his eye and have nothing to fear.

Tiffany, thank you for telling me not to be afraid. Thank you for sharing your beautiful faith with me.