

Be of Good Cheer

Sunday Sermon 12/28/2025

By Ty Robinson

The phrase “**be of good cheer**” is found seven times in scripture; seven being the number that points to SPIRITUAL PERFECTION, or SPIRITUAL COMPLETION. Thus the phrase “**be of good cheer**” speaks to us some things about SPIRITUAL PERFECTION or SPIRITUAL COMPLETION. The full overcomers from this Church Age will be SPIRITUALLY PERFECT, SPIRITUALLY COMPLETE, and will manifest this overcoming quality of being “**of good cheer**.” The phrase “**of good cheer**” is found eight times in scripture; eight being the number that is also associated with the BRIDE of Christ. The BRIDE of Christ will “**be of good cheer**,” for Jesus Christ Himself was “**of good cheer**,” and often encouraged others to “**be of good cheer**.” Five times (GRACE) Jesus speaks this phrase “**be of good cheer**.” MATTHEW chapter 9 is where we find the first recorded use of the phrase “**be of good cheer**.”

MATTHEW 9:1 *And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. 2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. 3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? 5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? 6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. 7 And he arose, and departed to his house. 8 But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.*

Do you think this man sick of the palsy was **of good cheer** because his sins were forgiven him? Or do you think this man sick of the palsy was **of good cheer** because the Lord healed him? Or both? I think this man left in **good cheer** because he was made whole both spiritually and physically, and I bet he felt better inwardly than he did outwardly.

The Greek word that is here translated “**be of good cheer**” is *tharseo* {thar-seh'-o}, number 2293 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, and I only mention this because *tharseo* is also found eight times in scripture; five times it is translated “**be of good cheer**,” and three times it is translated “**be of good comfort**.” {See MATTHEW 9:22; MARK 10:49; and LUKE 8:48.}

Back to our phrase “**be of good cheer**,” and I want to spend a little time giving the background covering this account found both in MATTHEW 14, and MARK 6. The short version is that this is where we find the story of Jesus walking on water. The complete telling of the events that led up to Jesus walking on water can be found by studying MATTHEW 14, MARK 6, LUKE 9, and JOHN 6. In this story Jesus disciples had come to Him after burying John the Baptist. MARK 6:31 & 32 here reads: *And he (Jesus) said unto them, (His disciples) Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. 32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.*

As I studied these chapters I found it most interesting that the phrase “**a desert place**” is also found eight times in scripture; eight again being the number associated with the BRIDE of Christ. Thus we find that “**a desert place**” is also good place to receive high calling training. LUKE 9:10 further informs us that Jesus *...took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.* Bethsaida means: “house of provision.” This caused me to consider PHILIPPIANS 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* PHILIPPIANS 4:19 is the one hundredth verse of PHILIPPIANS. (One hundred is the number associated with COMPLETION, and we know the BRIDE of Christ will be 100% complete.) As I pondered PHILIPPIANS 4:19 the thought hit me that all the worthies of faith mentioned in HEBREWS 11 knew the truth found in PHILIPPIANS 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* The reason they knew this is because *...the just shall*

live by faith... (ROMANS 1:17; GALATIANS 3:11; and HEBREWS 10:3), and PHILIPPIANS 4:19 is a statement of faith.

Old Testament worthy of faith Moses spent forty years in the backside of the **desert** before he was used of God to lead the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. He spent another forty years leading them by the mighty hand of God through “**a desert place**,” a waste howling wilderness, and told them in DEUTERONOMY 8:2 *And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.* 3 *And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.* 4 *Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.* Truly Moses knew ...*my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Old Testament worthy of faith David spent much of his early years watching his father's sheep in the wilderness (1 SAMUEL 17:28), and there he fought many battles, one with a lion, and one with a bear, (1 SAMUEL 17:34 & 36). It was in this “**desert place**” that David learned ...*the battle is the Lord's...* 1 SAMUEL 17:47, and with this preparation, David knew full well, by faith, that the Lord would deliver the giant Goliath into his hand! Yes David also knew ...*my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Before the Apostle Paul wrote us any epistles, he too learned in “**a desert place**” called Arabia (GALATIANS 1:17) that ...*my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus...* ...PHILIPPIANS 4:19.

Now back to ...*a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida...* ...LUKE 9:10. It was here that a great multitude came to Jesus. JOHN 6:5 *When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?* 6 *And this he said to prove him:...* (This was a test Jesus designed for Philip to see if he believed the principles of PHILIPPIANS 4:19 even though it had not yet been written: ...*my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*) ...*for he (Jesus) himself knew what he would do.* Jesus knew He would, in this **desert place**, feed this multitude, for after all He had fed about three and a half million people of the children of Israel for forty years in “**a desert place**” called the wilderness! JOHN 6:7 *Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread (about \$830 in today's money) is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.* 8 *One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,* 9 *There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?* 10 *And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.* (MATTHEW 14:21 here states that the number was ...*about five thousand men, beside women and children...* making the number of people here to be more in the neighborhood of twenty-five thousand!) JOHN 6:11 *And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.* 12 *When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.* 13 *Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.*

We certainly find that this was a most eventful day, a memorable day, for Jesus had healed their sick, and fed a multitude, the disciples collecting twelve baskets with the leftovers! No doubt they were tired, then we read in MARK 6:45 that Jesus then insisted that ...*his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.* 46 *And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.* (If Jesus needed time alone to pray, what about you, and me?) MARK 6:47 *And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.* 48 *And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them:...* . In studying the four different accounts of this story you will find that they were about four miles from shore here in the middle of the night rowing their ship into a headwind. And notice this,

Jesus ...*saw them toiling in rowing...* from His vantage point on the mountain. At such dark times in our life, when on a storm tossed sea we find ourselves facing tremendous headwinds, what is it we think? The songwriter wrote: "Does Jesus care when my way is dark, with a nameless dread and fear? As the daylight fades into deep night shades, does He care enough to be near?" Have you ever been there? This was the kind of midnight the Apostles were facing that night. The chorus of that song answers: "Oh yes, he cares – I know He cares! His heart is touched with my grief; when the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Saviour cares." Then we read in MARK 6:48 ...*and about the fourth watch of the night (3:00 a.m. in the morning) he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.* 49 *But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:* 50 *For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, **Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.*** Does the Lord talk to you? Encourage you? Does He tell you ...***Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.*** When Jesus came unto the ship the wind ceased, showing us among many other things, that Jesus is in control no matter how stormy life's troubled sea may be. He can calm the storm, and relieve fear, if we will only trust Him, and believe that He can do such impossible things. I like what JOHN 6:21 says here: *Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.* This test was over.

On the night of the last supper we find the Apostle John giving us a most complete accounting of what Jesus said that night to His eleven remaining disciples, for Judas Iscariot had already left to betray Him. In JOHN chapters 14, 15, and 16 we find Jesus telling His disciples the importance of receiving the Holy Ghost, and Jesus tells them all the benefits of receiving the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who will guide you into all truth. Then Jesus parting words to them that evening are found in JOHN 16:33, which reads: *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but **be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*** Do you believe this? Are you too **of good cheer**?

We will close with the fifth time Jesus spoke the words "**be of good cheer,**" which was to the Apostle Paul in ACTS 23:11. Talk about a troubled sea of life that the Apostle Paul was facing here. He had just been arrested in Jerusalem a few days before, and had now been twice rescued by the Roman soldiers from the Jews trying to tear him apart. Paul's own hopes and ambitions were to go to Rome, but since his arrest it seems those plans were now unattainable. Discouraged, and unable to rest, at a dark midnight hour we find our Apostle extremely discouraged, and certainly not **of good cheer**. The Lord of course knew Paul's heart, and from the throne of God, where Jesus now sits on the right hand of God making intercession for us (ROMANS 8:34), Jesus knew Paul's heart better than even Paul knew his own heart. Then we read ACTS 23:11 *And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, **Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*** This statement gives Paul a reason to **be of good cheer**. This statement gives Paul immediate encouragement, and a shot of adrenalin. This statement takes Paul from a low emotional dark valley, and sets him upon a high pinnacle where he can see things far distant in his own life! Paul now knows of a certainty that he is going to Rome!

As we leave here today, and go our separate ways, we have every reason to **be of good cheer**.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:5 *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.* 1 THESSALONIANS 4:14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.* 15 *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.* 16 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:* 17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* 18 *Wherefore comfort one another with these words. **Be of good cheer.***