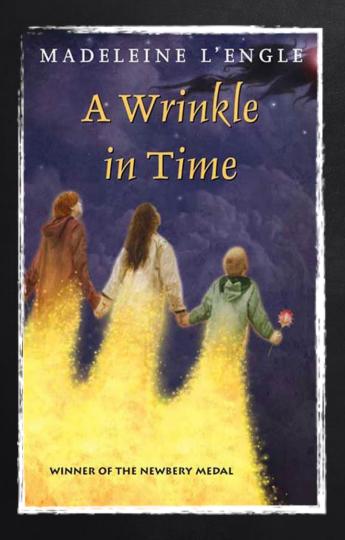
CLEANING HOUSE

Mark 1:21-28; 3:22-27





A Wrinkle in Time (1962)

by Madeleine L'Engle

The IT or the Dark Thing

"And where the shadow was, the stars were not visible... What could there be about a shadow that was so terrible that she knew that there had never been before or ever would be again, anything that would chill her with a fear that was beyond shuddering, beyond crying or screaming, beyond the possibility of comfort? ... 'Make it go away. It's evil.'"

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12; ESV)

The gospel is the good news that Jesus, through his own death and resurrection, has defeated sin, death, and evil and is making all things new, even us.

Mark 1:21-23 (ESV)

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out...

Mark 1:24-26 (ESV)

24 "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.

Mark 1:27-28 (ESV)

27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Mark 3:22-24 (ESV)

22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." 23 And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand."

Mark 3:25-27 (ESV)

25 "And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house."

"Can prey be taken from the mighty or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? For thus says the LORD: 'Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.'" (Isaiah 49:24-25; ESV)

Jesus binds the strong man and plunders his house. Hallelujah!



"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14; ESV)

"Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again." (2 Corinthians 1:9-10; ESV)

- He RESISTED TEMPTATION.
 - "The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan." (Mark 1:12)

- He EXPOSED, REBUKED, and THREW OFF the devil's hold on people.
 - "And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him." (Mark 1:34)

- He GAVE HIS LIFE.
 - "For even the Son of Man came... to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

- He GAVE HIS LIFE.
 - "Now is the judgment of this world. Now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:31-32)

Have no fear. Jesus is here.

Hold onto hope and know the heart of your Savior.

Know both His incredible strength and His unstoppable love.

For those of us who have experienced His rescue in the past, our charge is to live with Him in the light.

"For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." (Ephesians 5:8-11; ESV)