

TV Show “Fear Factor” was all about finding your weakness, exploiting them, and making you fail

Picture: Spider

New Series: Faith Factor: is just the opposite. It is all about overcoming your weaknesses and helping you succeed

From time to time we all face situations that cause us to be afraid..

- Relationship; Finances; Work; Circumstances of life; Medical Issue, Children; Spouse

In the message series we begin today I want to talk with you about Faith and Fear...and How God wants to build your faith, help you overcome your fears, and help you grow into the person He wants you to be no matter what your circumstance.

You see, It doesn't Matter who you are, or how great your life is, sooner or later you find yourself lying awake at night, wondering, worrying, unable to sleep because your mind is creating all kinds of bad images

The worst of these is when we face what from every human perspective is a Hopeless situation.

- Dr Pronouncement: There is nothing we can do
- Report Card comes out...Test Comes back...see the grade, you have failed
- Open mailbox, Rejection letter from the college you really wanted
- Divorce Papers come...spouse says...sign them...I'm through
- Standing at the graveside of loved one
- Boss calls you in and says...I'm sorry, you are one of the ones we have to let go...

It happens in a thousand different ways, but there is one thing we all have in common. At that moment...our world stops. Our mind and our heart...everything we know and have ever learned or heard tells us...its over... ..It's finished... it is hopeless.

Here is the Key Thought I want you to hold onto as we work our way through the Scripture:

You cannot know the truth of any circumstance, until you have heard from God! (Henry Blackaby)

Today I want to begin our series by talking about...

Finding Hope In Hopeless Situations

Mt 27-28 Pg 705

There is nothing more final...more hopeless from our perspective...than Death
There is something about standing at the bedside, or the graveside, or beside the casket that is about as final as it gets. When we get to that place with someone we love, it feels like all hope is gone.

That is where the disciples and the women that had been following Jesus during His earthly ministry were in Matt 27 and 28. Jesus has been arrested, tried, convicted and now the sentence is being carried out...and all they can do is stand there, and watch. From their perspective, Hope is gone!

Everything They KNEW Told Them The Situation Was Hopeless

- The Women Saw Him Die: 27:56
- The Women Saw Him Buried. 27:61
- The Women Accepted His Death, and Came to Prepare His Body. Mark 16:1 pg 722

In Spite of what we KNOW God Always Has the Final Word in Any Situation.

- Jesus had told them He would rise (They just didn't believe) Vs 6 **Mt 20:17-19**
They struggled with believing him just as much as we do!
- The Angel Confirmed Jesus Words (Angel = Messenger from God) Vs 7 God is speaking
God speaks to us today...Confirms, and just like them, we struggle
(Bible, Sermons, Circumstances, Friends, Church, Prayer)
- Hope is found when you hold on to Jesus! 28:9
~"Clasped his feet" When everything around you is unsure...He is the solid rock to hold onto
~"Worship" There is something about the nature of true worship that changes us

HOW Do You Hold Onto Jesus?

- Put your faith and trust in Him for Relationship With God (Gospel Presentation)
EASTER! Rom 5:1
- Believe in Simple Faith that He cares for you despite what Circumstances say
Mt 6:25-34 pg 685
~Relationship goes bad: We think...Never have anyone: God made us for community
~Health problem: God is Great Physician
~Finances: God watches over His Children
~Death: Life is over..No, for those know Jesus...Entirely new life!
- Trust the truth of the Scripture
Jer 29:11 -13 pg 558
Illus: Old Gideon Bible: It is all there! Just have to read it...hold onto it!

CONCL: If you are facing what seems to be a hopeless situation, I have good news!

You cannot know the truth of your circumstance, until you have heard from God! (Henry Blackaby)

Here is what you need to do:

1. If you have never done so, Decide today to put your faith and trust in Jesus
2. Pray, and in simple faith, say God...I am going to trust you...
Change the situation
Change me...so that I can get through it!
3. Commit yourself to searching the scripture...and hearing from Him
You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
If you will commit to doing that...God will bring hope

Because...***You never know the truth of any situation...Until you hear from God!***

Pray with me: Not used to doing that, let me pray for you...Use communication card