

There are all kinds of things that make us afraid! VIDEO

I was reviewing the video on Friday...when I discovered a NEW fear! (Lock yourself into chicken coop no way out!)

This FEAR issue is so common that God has addressed it in the bible....365 times He says...Don't be afraid!

The great news is not only does God tell us not to be afraid, He provides REAL HELP in overcoming the fears we have!

This morning I want to look with you are how Jesus dealt with some people that were afraid. As we do that we see two things.

1. How He wants to help us with OUR fears.

2. How He wants to USE us to help others in our life with the things they are afraid of.

John 6:16-24

Page 755

Mt 14:22ff

Page 692

1. Fear Is Common To Us All. God Allows It...Sometimes He PLANS It!

Mt 14:22

- Disciples are afraid because of the wind, waves, think they have seen a ghost! (Have to admit it was scary!)
Circumstances: (Storm was bad) Unknown: (Someone walking on water)
- Peter is afraid when he loses focus on Jesus and starts seeing the wind and waves. MT 14:30
Threats on our Well-being

Here is what you need to understand: They are in the boat because Jesus MADE them get in the boat! He compelled them...

He knew what was going to happen...Knew they were going to be afraid....Knew the Storm was coming

Yet he STILL had them get in the boat

HE had them in the boat because He was going to TEACH them something. To trust Him in the face of adversity!

Illus: Like the Coach is willing to make us struggle in practice to make us better...so God does with trouble

He is teaching us...YOU CAN TRUST ME!!!

Mark 6:52: They had already FORGOTTEN the miracle of the Bread! Never crossed their mind...He can again!

>Understood: *Never considered it...Never put the pieces together*

>Hardened: *Calloused, Petrified, Dense, Unresponsive*

App: Fear Blinds us...But Keeping our eyes on Jesus opens our eyes to the possibility that He can move on our behalf

2. Jesus Prays For Us When We Are Going Through Tough Times And Are Afraid!

Mt 14, Mk 6

Matt and Mk tell us why Jesus wasn't with them. When they left...He went up on the Mountainside to pray!

When I was in Israel last you we went to a number of places where this was easy to picture: Can see far out onto sea

Jesus is up on the mountain...they are having trouble with the storm in the boat...

What do you think He is doing? HE sees them...Mark 6:48 Distressed in rowing: lit=*pain; torture; torment; toil*

- Rom 8:34ff *"He is seated at the right hand of God interceding for us..."* What shall separate us from love of God!

App: When you walk through tough times and are afraid...He is praying for you!!!

3. Jesus Sees Us...Even In Our Worst Situation.

Mk 6:48

When we are in the middle of the storm, whatever kind of storm it is...it FEELS to us like the men in the boat felt

"Where is Jesus?" He MADE me get in this boat...He PUT me here...Now He has abandoned me.

That is how we feel. But that feeling is NOT REALITY!

He sees us just as surely as He saw them! They didn't KNOW HE was watching...But they should have...He never leaves us

App: WE need to learn to trust that God is paying attention. Mt 6:25-34 Not a sparrow falls from the sky

Warren Wiersbe: *When God's children go through the fire he keeps His eye on the flames and his hand thermostat!*

4. Jesus Comes To Us In The Storm.

Mt 14:25

Very interesting thing to notice here. All of the accounts emphasize different elements of the story

Some include Peter walking on water...some don't (Kind of a BIG deal...to leave out, right?) Leave out "forgot loaves"

But here is what is interesting..ALL 3 INCLUDE...Jesus CAME TO THEM!

That is the point of the story! He is going to be there...ALWAYS going to be there!

OUR fear of Him abandoning us is real. Many have it, but it is not a REALISTIC fear for those that know Jesus!

Notice vs Mark 6:48: "He would have passed them by!" Lit = *He was about to pass them by...Forced them to call out!!!*

Ps 145:18 *"The LORD is near to all who call on him" HE WILL COME TO US WHEN WE CALL JUST AS SURELY*

5. Jesus Holds Onto Us In The Storm.

Mt 14:31

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter

App: He promised it to Moses, to Joshua, and to all of His Children

Heb 13:15 *"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you!"*

If we will learn to trust Him, and not give into our fears, but instead hold onto Him, then we will find Him faithful

Applic: Here is the reality. When we are in the most trouble is when we feel closest to Him!

We find Him in those places, and we come to know Him in ways that we have never found or known Him before.

There is ALWAYS a reason why God allows us to go through those trying times. He is teaching us to TRUST!

- Daniel in lions den Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego in fiery furnace Moses in desert

They and dozens of others in the bible, NT and OLD...they met God in trials and discovered Him there in new ways

App: *Have you felt that touch? Have you Seen the storm calm? Have your Heard His voice over the wind and waves?*

6. Jesus Walks With Us Through The Storm.

Mt 14:21

“And when they had gone up into the boat”

Think with me for a moment...what must it have been like when Jesus was holding his hand...walking on water!

You see...when Jesus has you...that’s all you need!

When you can walk with Him...and KNOW HE has your hand...those circumstances that were overwhelming and fearful...

Applic: What gets us in trouble is when trials come...wind is blowing...and we are there alone!

There was NO difference in the wind and the waves... The sea was just as deep...water just as cold, wind as strong
BUT...Now He had Jesus...(Or Jesus had him) And that changed everything!

7. Jesus Speaks To Us And Calms Our Fears.

Mt 14:27;31

Jesus spoke to all the issues:

1. Spoke to the disciples in the boat...*Don’t worry...it’s me!*

2. Spoke to Peter in the water...*“Oh you of little faith”*

“Didn’t you see me with the bread and the fish...Havent you seen the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear...leper cleansed”
And NONE of them were my disciples...none of them were my friends...how could I ever let you go...you are mine.

App: The same is true for us. Like Peter though, we doubt, we fear, we sink...until he comes and calms our fears.

Key: WE have to train ourselves to hear His voice. We do that in the calm times...Devotions, worship, Bible Study
Once we have that as our spiritual “muscle memory” We can more easily recognize His voice in the storm

8. Jesus Takes Us Through The Storm Safely To The Others Side.

John 6:21

“Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.”

I have heard hundreds of people say it...As recently as Friday when I was talking with a Pastor friend of mine...

“I can’t take it...I don’t know how I’m going to get through this...Bigger than I am...Depressed...tired...worn out...”

None of us are immune...We all have times in our lives when the struggle seems to be more than we can bear.

But it isn’t. If you will stay with it...Stay faithful...Stand strong...Hold onto Jesus...and TRUST HIM...

The other side is right in front of you.

This is one of the unspoken...often uncounted miracles in the bible. Many people overlook it.

- He walked on water Helped Peter walk on water
- He calmed the sea, wind He “transported” them to the other shore!!!

Some would say...no...it just seemed like the trip didn’t take long...I think Jesus like...boom...Put them there!

Applic: A while ago when I was going through a tough time came into my office one day and there on my desk sticky note
“You’ll get through this. It wont be painless. IT won’t be quick. But God will use this mess for good. Don’t be foolish or naïve. But don’t despair either. With God’s help, you’ll get through this.” Max Lucado

Scripture

“Because he loves me, says the Lord, I will rescue him. I will protect him for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him.” Psm 91:14-15

CONCL:

Fear is common to us all. It can be as simple as the chicken coop, as scary as the story raging around us while we are right where Jesus told us to be, or as nebulous as wondering what the future holds for us in our country...our world.

You saw the images...they are not unrealistic. Tragedy, Trouble, Can come to us in a moment...

We have to be prepared...

BUT WE DON’T HAVE TO FEAR

But..we are NOT ALONE! If we will learn to walk with Him, talk with Him...trust His goodness, He will take us Through...and To...the other side.

And if we do it right...remember all that He has done for us...remember His great power...trust His heart for us...
We will see the trouble fades away as we keep our focus on Him

This Morning...I want to challenge you to “Get Out Of The Boat”!

1. Step out..come down here, Pray For Yourself.... For someone Else struggling

Guess what...Here is something you don’t ever want to forget.

Peter found Jesus ... Out In the water...He had to step out...in faith trusting.

Hard...but he did it...

I believe for the rest of his life people said...“Peter...what was it like”

Because Peter met Jesus that day in a way that no one else ever did!