

Do Not Be Afraid; Mark 14:25-27

- I. Fear
 - a. When I was young, I remember being afraid in the dark
 - i. I would turn on all the lights
 - ii. I would close all the curtains
 - b. I have often said that fear is being afraid of something that has not even happened
 - c. Even though that is true, fear is real and can be debilitating
 - d. Fear causes the 'freeze, fight or flight' response
 - e. I did not find 365 verses with the words 'do not fear' or 'do not be afraid,' but I think we can safely say that God's desire for us is to not fear
- II. No Fear
 - a. 'No Fear' was such a popular phrase in the late 1980s that someone made a clothing company, No Fear Inc.
 - b. 2 Timothy 1:6–8 (ESV); ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,
 - c. It seems to me that Timothy might have had a fear about preaching the Gospel
 - i. 1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV); ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.
 - ii. 2 Timothy 4:1–2 (ESV); ¹ I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
 - d. Some of us may have that same fear
 - i. We may use that as an excuse
 - ii. Remember, the word most used to preach the Gospel in the book of Acts is the Greek word for 'chit chat' – to speak about the mighty works of God
 - iii. Acts 2:4–11 (ESV); ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began **to speak** in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was **hearing them speak** in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these **who are speaking** Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them **telling** in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

- e. We don't have to be some educated professor with a doctorate to proclaim the Gospel – we simply need to speak, to chit-chat with our friends and neighbors about the mighty works of God!

III. Our World

- a. It seems that something has come up almost every month this year that has caused fear – COVID-19, murder hornets, national coin shortage, riots, autonomous zones
- b. Even the Apostles were subject to fear
 - i. Matthew 14:25–27 (ESV); ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”
 - ii. Verse 24 says that the winds were against them, they were beaten by the waves
 - iii. These seasoned mariners had a rough night rowing against the wind and the waves – being bounced about the boat as the waves pounded into them
 - iv. I'm sure they were wet and exhausted
 - v. The last thing they expected was to see a lone person out on the water without a boat in these conditions
- c. Jesus uses the phrase, “it is I” – these are the same Greek words as I AM, but in the opposite order – “Take heart; I AM”
- d. Jesus is reminding them who He is and to whom they belong
 - i. Peter had such courage after this that He asked Jesus to allow him to walk out on the water
 - ii. Matthew 14:28–30 (ESV); ²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.”
 - iii. Peter allowed the world to intrude on him – he lost his focus on Jesus
 - iv. How many of us have let the events of this year intrude on us and so lost our focus on Jesus?

IV. Our Citizenship

- a. We are not citizens of this world – yes, we live in it and are subject to the things that go on here
- b. Philippians 3:20–21 (ESV); ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
- c. Hebrews 12:22–23 (ESV); ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
- d. We should have no fear, we should not be afraid of anything this world has in store for us simply because we know our final destination

e. 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (ESV); ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

V. Do Not Fear

a. Matthew 10:26–31 (ESV); ²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

b. Focus on Jesus! – Almost Home by Mercy Me; “Almost home, brother it won’t be long, soon all your burdens will be gone, with all your strength, sister run wild run free, hold up your head, keep pressing on, we are almost home”