



The Fear of Lord | Chad Bruegman | 9.16.18
LG WEEKLY

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you had your own talk show, who would you invite to be your first guest?

SHARE

When we hear the word 'fearless,' what comes to mind?

Maybe you think of a General on the battlefield leading the charge into certain peril? Someone leaping from a plane or climbing the sheer face of a mountain? We all have images that come to mind when we think of what it looks like to be fearless, but for most of us, the things we fear aren't something we need to go looking for, they are already right in front of us. It could be something we know we need to face in the future or something we are facing this very day.

We can all name our fears if we take the time to really think about it. Maybe yours is anxiety, not being able to provide for your family, not measuring up to the Instagram posts of others, mental health issues, not being strong enough, fear of the future, fear of not being a good enough parent or falling behind in life. If given enough time, we can all name a fear that seems to cripple us.

So, once we name our fears, what do we do with it?

We bring those fears before God and lay them down at his feet. Then we ask God to do what only He can do. 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us “For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” We might not have the power on our own, but God does, and His Spirit gives us the strength we need, the love we can’t seem to muster up and a sound mind in the most trying circumstances.

The thing we most need to remind ourselves is that God is with us wherever we go, no matter what we are facing. Throughout this series, we will recall what the Lord commanded Joshua before his first of many battles, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Wherever we go, whatever we face...remember that you have God with you.

Read Exodus 33:1-11

According to the text, Moses used to move away from all the distractions when he wanted to meet with God. Why do you think that is? What can we learn from that as we head into this busy fall season?

G R O W

Read Exodus 33:12-17

What does this passage reveal to us about Moses? What does it reveal to us about God?

Moses seems to be feeling overwhelmed and fearful in this passage. He knows that without God, his people don’t stand a chance. Have you ever felt that way? How did you respond?

This week, we talked about the allure of ‘over there.’ It’s easy to think that our lives will be complete once we get the job, the spouse, the kids, the car, etc. But it’s not true. As Chad

reminded us, “if you’re a hot mess in the desert, you’ll be a hot mess in the land of milk and honey.”

All too often we think our accomplishments will make us fearless. In our minds, we believe once we arrive at a certain point in society we won’t be afraid of anything, but that’s not how it works. Our souls are all searching for God. Which means accomplishing all our goals in life doesn’t make us fearless but understanding and acknowledging that we are children of God does!

Think about Moses. He accomplished so much in his life as he led the Israelites out of slavery and toward the promise land. However, in Exodus 33 (toward the end of all his adventures) he is still well aware that if God does not come with them, they don’t stand a chance. Moses is not fearless because he has accomplished much, he is fearless because he has spent so much time with God, that he truly knows Him and that He is who He says He is. He trusts Him! In fact, the text tells us Moses spent so much time with God that they talked to each other the way friends do (v.11)!

What do you think it means that God spoke to Moses the way someone talks to a friend? What would it look like for us to journey toward having a similar relationship with God?

Now that we’ve worked through Exodus 33, what do you think the difference is between “fear” and “the fear of the Lord”?

M O V E

Read John 15:1-9

Toward the end of his life, someone asked Billy Graham what he would do differently if he could do it all over again. He simply responded that he would spend more time in prayer and meditation. That seems to be the pattern for every man and woman we would describe as fearless. As Jesus sat with his disciples in the upper room, the night he was betrayed, he tells them to “remain in him” (John 15:4). He knew what they were up against. He was well aware of all the trials and troubled moments coming their way. So, he leaves them with the simple reminder that still holds true today, that there is a direct correlation between how often we take time to be with God and how fearlessly we live our lives!

There are a lot of ways to spend time with God; one primary way is by reading scripture, thinking deeply about it (meditation), and then talking to God about it (prayer). Of course, this is way easier said than done. Finding time to quiet our minds and focus on God is very difficult to accomplish in today's world. Let's take some time right now to practice together.

Re- Read John 15:1-9

[Meditate]

What do you think it means to “remain in God”? At a personal level, what would it look like for you to do this well?

If you had to give yourself a letter grade for how well you have “remained with God” this week, what grade would you give yourself?

What is one thing you can do this week to raise your letter grade?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

TO GO

John 15:4

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

