

Mt. Lebanon Church

January 2020

Sermon

Why are we Fearful.

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

Matthew 8:23 - 27

As Christians how do we treat the storms and circumstances in our lives.

Do we put our complete trust in God, or do we allow the fear of uncertainty to control us.

Everyone has their own definition of what they are going through. But rest assured, no matter how we define our challenges, Christ can, will and is taking care of it, no matter how we identify with his presence in the matter.

From the beginning, mankind has fallen to temptation, mocked Gods power, and has not believed, because of Fear.

Christ put himself in just such a circumstance with his disciples, to teach them how to overcome worldly fears through spiritual growth.

In **Matthew 8: 23 – 27** - Why are you fearful, o you of little faith.

So lets try to answer the question: Why are you fearful.

First we will address: Fear

We realize our fear is not just being troubled with circumstances, it is the uncertainty of what is going to happen to us in our lives.

This is why Christ put the 2 together:

Why are you Fearful ?

O ye of little Faith, or why such a lack of Faith ?

Christ shows us faith and fear cannot exist together, our worldly fear paralyzes our faith.

Storms and circumstances in our lives will bring about a great deal of fear and unbelief if we allow it.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Fear is not of God, so God would have us to learn to react in Faith, not in fear. Some would say, that the word of God has many references to scriptures that say we are to fear God. To fear God means to give reverence to him, to acknowledge his sovereignty, to give him Glory, and honor, and praise. This becomes more apparent in our Christian life as our faith grows, and we mature spiritually.

So Faith: **Hebrews 11:1**

Is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith: Is taking Christ at his word in obedience to his commands. **2 John 1:6** – and this is love, that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

So I will give you 5 ways that God uses Faith to help us to react to problems in our lives other than with fear. You can take these home with you to study.

Faith is used to:

Direct us. – John 16:13 – But when he, the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth....

Inspect us. – 2 Corinthians 13:5 – Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith....

Correct us. – John 14: 26 – But the advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, will teach you all things....

Protect us. – 2 Thessalonians 3:3 – But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil....

Perfect us. – Hebrews 11:16 – Without faith it is impossible to please him....

These 5 things will show us God is at work in our lives even when we do not recognize it or understand it.

Matthew 8:23 – 27

As we begin this mornings scripture, we see that the disciples has faith as they voluntarily followed Christ into the boat. Through faith we followed Christ to salvation, but like the disciples, temptation comes before us, and if we allow it, temptation turns to deception, deception to transgression, and transgression becomes worldly fear. This started in the beginning when Eve was deceived by the serpent, Adam then transgressed, sin became apart of who they now were, and when God came walking in the garden to fellowship with Adam, Adam hid because of fear, and it has been with mankind ever since.

We know this to be true since in **V.24** as the disciples said: But he (Christ) was asleep.

The one that they voluntarily followed into the boat, they begin to loose faith in, because of temptation which became fear. This is due to the lack of spiritual maturity in our lives.

How could Christ sleep through such a tempest ?

How can we find peace and comfort in the storms of our life ?

Christ was abiding in the father, resting, and secured in the peace of God.

This sets forth an example of unshakable faith and dependence upon God the Father.

God often uses what seems like impossible situations to us, to demonstrate his sovereignty over every circumstance in our life.

No matter what circumstances or situations we find ourselves to be in, we need to abide in Christ, rest in his love and depend fully upon him.

1 John 2: 24 – 25 - Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning.....

1 John 3: 6 - Whosoever abides in him does not sin.

1 John 3: 24 - Now he who keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in him....

If only we would take God at his word, trust in him in all things and depend on him, so that when the waves of the world rage against us, we should never be overwhelmed by them, because Christ is with us.

Now we look at Overcoming the Fearfulness.

Lord Save US ! We Are Perishing ! Is to often common and repetitive in our prayer life.

Do not misunderstand, God wants us to cry out to him, but not in worldly fear. God wants us to come to him in faith believing. When we pray in faith believing, then we are immediately thankful. God gives us the security in knowing he is answering our prayers.

Roman 10:13

For whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

When the disciples thought Christ was sleeping they hardly had Faith at all.

When Christ was awake, they had a little Faith which means that when the moment came, there was just not enough Faith to bring them calmness and peacefulness.

The disciples did not lose complete confidence in Christ, but neither had they learned or fully developed trust in him.

They did not realize Christ was able to save them, sleeping or as waking.

Romans 8:25 – 26

But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the spirit also helps in our weaknesses.

He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea.

Christ had the authority to rebuke the winds and the sea, the disciples did not, because they did not resist temptation. **James 4:7** says, Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from us. We must learn to resist, before we have the power to rebuke.

Nothing can stand in the face of the almighty God. There is no enemy that has that kind of power.

Christ shows us by example:

Christ treated the storm as something that was: Antagonistic, Rebellious and Dominating.

He addressed the force of the storm and the being behind it with the power and authority of the almighty God.

Often times we allow these great storms of doubt and fear to bring us to the brink of despair.

Christ shows us our safety and our destiny, under his command, that nothing can overcome his grace offered.

His word is sufficient to calm the storm.

Philippians 4:6

Be careful (Anxious) for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with Thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

Every choice we make in Fear brings about more Fear.

How can we learn to trust God when we do not trust ourselves , the one that is in this relationship with God.

Realization is knowing the source of our fear is in our worldly thoughts.

We must move forward in the face of all of our ever changing thoughts. With the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit we learn to dismiss worldly thoughts and make the more powerful choice that is in the true and absolute Spirit of God.

Let us Pray !

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

Pastor Tim Hughes

304.376.3177 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

