

Faith Part 11 – Faith over Fear (5-26-2019)

Intro: Things I feared while growing up - The Dark, Neighbor's Dog, Shark in the Pool, Girls, & Public Speaking

1) Faith or Fear

The Story of Elisha and the Army of Syria (2 Kings 6:8-23)

The king of Syria is attacking Israel, but it's not going well. He makes private plans, and Israel always seems to evade him. So, the king of Syria get's fed up and starts looking for the spy in his midst . . .

2 Kings 6:11-12 (ESV)

(11) And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?" (12) And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

Notes: They tell the king that Elisha is in the city of Dothan, so they seize the city in order to capture Elisha.

2 Kings 6:15-17 (ESV)

(15) When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" (16) Elisha said, "**Do not be afraid**, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." (17) Then Elisha prayed and said, "**O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.**" So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Notes: Fear is based on reality, but it's also based on our perspective of reality. Fear cripples us from seeing the whole picture!

2 Kings 6:18-20 (ESV)

(18) And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, "Please strike this people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. (19) And Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he led them to Samaria. (20) As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, "O LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the LORD opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

Notes: Instead of asking God to defeat the Syrian army, he asks for their blindness and leads them into a trap!

2 Kings 6:21-23 (ESV)

(21) As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?" (22) He answered, "You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master." (23) So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.

What are we so afraid of? The Army of Syria was real, and they did mean to do harm, but God gave Elisha heavenly sight & heavenly perspective. Therefore the enemy became a friend, and they ate together!

2) Fear and Follow the King

Jesus (In Luke 12:22-34) is speaking on Anxiety, Worry, & Fear says . . .

Luke 12:31-32 (ESV)

(31) Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. (32) **"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

Notes: Little Flock (you are small and helpless, but you have a Shepherd!), so let him lead you, he wants to give you his kingdom out of his good pleasure towards you.

So, why don't we do this?

Tim Keller – "Most people want Jesus as a consultant rather than a king."

3 Ways we can look to our King to conquer our Fear . . .

a) Fear the King

Throughout Scripture – some variation of "Fear Not" appears 80-ish times

Also throughout Scripture – some variation of "Fear God" appears 80-ish times

- Brings Wisdom & Insight

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

- Is good for us

Deuteronomy 6:24 (ESV)

And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day.

- Produces awe of His love

Psalms 118:4 (ESV)

Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

1 John 4:18 (ESV)

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

b) Surrender to the King

Jesus had been teaching to the crowds, and now go off to pray in a secluded place, disciples set out to cross the sea, and it was a rough night fighting wind & waves . . .

Matthew 14:25-33 (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.**" (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." (31) Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (32) And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. (33) And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Notes:

- Peter says tell me what to do & I'll do it – "I will face my fear by coming to you!"
- Peter walks on water
- Peter also sinks in fear
- Jesus rescues & then calls him to faith, not doubt
- Now they worship – Surrender is the truest form of Worship

Eyesight is the key to having faith over fear. Surrendering to the King, means following him, and this requires looking to him, and then going where he goes

c) Receive the Kingdom – The King offers Protection & Provision

Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:13 (ESV)

For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

Isaiah 43:1 (ESV)

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isaiah 44:6-8 (ESV)

(6) Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. (7) Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. (8) Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

Isaiah 51:6-8 (ESV)

(6) Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed. (7) "Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; **fear not the reproach of man**, nor be dismayed at their revilings. (8) For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations."

Conclusion: Faith & Fear – they are both present, so let's learn to let our Faith prevail over our Fear.

How can you grow in Faith this week? What would it look like for you to . . .

- Fear the King
- Surrender to the King
- Receive the Kingdom from the King (Let Him provide & protect!)

Remember: We are all on a journey towards Home, and it takes Faith to see our way clearly. Fear will come, but let's not let it have the final word. Choose Faith over Fear!