



Luke 8:26-39

“Holy Fear, Part 2”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

1-28-2024

Consult the Scriptures:

Luke 8:26-39 (cf. 8:22-25)

(Other Scripture referenced: Deut. 4:24, 6:1-2; Heb. 12:29; Php. 2:12; Ps. 89:9; Jonah 1:1-16; Mk. 5:3-5; Acts 19:11-20)

Consult the Scholars:

Jared Wilson—

“You’d think if anyone’s got a handle on Jesus, it would be the Christian church. But we settled for the glossy portrait. We’ve used him and abused him, made him into types and stereotypes, taken his message out of context and made it about being a better person or being cool or helping us to help ourselves. Consequently, what we have today—in a world where Jesus is most cited, most recognized, and most admired—is a generation of people who don’t know the Gospels very well—which means we don’t know Jesus very well.” (Jared Wilson, *Your Jesus Is Too Safe* [Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Pub., 2009], p. 14)

Discuss:

1. Pastor Patrick opened with a story about hiking Moro Rock in the fog vs. on a clear day. What was the point of the story and how did it relate to the subject of the fear of the Lord?

2. In Jared Wilson's book, "Your Jesus Is Too Safe," he identifies several different versions of "Jesus" that are prevalent in the church today (e.g., Taskmaster Jesus, Get-Out-of-Jail-Free Jesus, ATM Jesus, etc.). Looking back, what other versions of "Jesus" have you had? How does that "Jesus" compare to the real one?
3. Read the above quote from Wilson,' book and discuss. Do you agree or disagree? What strikes you from that quotation?
4. Read Luke 8:22-25 and Luke 8:26-39 and compare them; what similarities to you see? What is the theme of these two stories?
5. Read Acts 19:11-20 and compare it to the story in Luke 8:26-39. What striking differences do you notice? How might those difference inform our understanding of the fear of the Lord?
6. Jerry Bridges speaks of the fear of the LORD as having two parts: "anxious dread" and "reverence, and awe."¹ What is the difference and how do they complement each other?
7. What does it mean for the Christian to "dread" the LORD (see Heb. 12:3-11)? How does that "dread" differ from that of a non-believer?
8. What challenged you most about this week's sermon? What new insights did you take away? What questions do you still have?

¹ Ibid. p. 9.