

By Faith not by Fear - Sunday, February 22nd

Last week we looked at three verses in Hebrews chapter 11 dealing with our faith being passed on to the next generation as well as finishing our own journey of faith well. And so if you have children or if you have grandchildren or if you have people that you influence we are tasked with leading and teaching them about the God you and I serve. We don't accidentally stumble onto this knowledge but we are taught by someone who has come before us and this stems all the way back from the disciples and has brought us to the place we are today.

We talked last week about how kids actually learn through observing us more than what we tell them or what we teach them. They watch us and they will mimic what we do despite what our words tell them and so we have to be modeling our Christianity not only for our children but for the world around us because there are so many people in the world who are looking for an opportunity to say that that's not true, that Christianity is just another organization looking to collect an offering but even Jesus said, they will know you by your love for one another. In other words, there is something different about us and we do that by modeling it.

And we talked about how we have to make sure that our actions are reinforcing what our words are saying and that's how we will be ministers of the gospel. We also see this a lot. We shared how parents will bring their kids up in church, teach them the right things but once they're grown a lot of times their faith kind of falls off and they just kind of, I seem to see it a lot more where they just kind of begin to walk away from their faith and Jacob taught us last week that at the end of his life he worshipped God and he put his, even to the last ounce of his strength where he had to rest his head on his staff and he finished his journey of faith well.

And that's what we need to be about, making sure that we continue our faith until our last breath, amen? But we also know that the struggle is very difficult because life is difficult. Life throws a lot of things at us. But I have to, I have a debt of gratitude I guess because if you and I are serving the Lord now, we owe someone in our past for bringing the faith to us and sharing that faith with us.

And that's been going on for the past 2,000 years, how people have been sharing their faith with the next generation and so that's what we need to be about as well because years from now generations will be able to look back and say, I'm glad so and so did that for me and my family, even if we don't know who it is. But I know in my family I'm a fourth generation Christian so four generations ago my great, great grandparents, great, great grandparents, yes, someone ministered the gospel to them and from them I am a part of that heritage and ministering and serving Jesus now, amen? Amen. We can be a part of that going forward.

And that's what we looked about last week in Hebrews chapter 11. This week we are moving on to Moses. I promise, maybe I won't promise, I hope to be done with chapter 11 in a week or two.

I don't know if I'm going to get everything in next week but I'm going to try but I do want to be finished with chapter 11 here pretty soon. Even though I'm not in a rush to get out, I have enjoyed the messages that have come from it mostly because they dealt with an area in my life that I needed dealing with and I hope you can say the same as well. But this morning we're going to be looking at Moses and Moses is kind of the last character in chapter 11 that the writer talks about his faith specifically before transitioning into more of the idea of faith of the nation.

After this we're going to kind of move into the children of Israel as they leave Egypt and the faith that they had as a nation going forward. And so this morning if you're following in your Bible we're going to be in Hebrews chapter 11 starting in verse 23. But Moses is a man of two stories.

If you ever read the account of Moses in Exodus there's kind of this dichotomy of a person because we see this strong leader who leads millions of people out of Egypt. But if you read the scriptures it's a story of a man full of anxiety and stress married to fear and insecurity. What a beautiful relationship, huh? And that really marks the first 40 years of Moses' life.

We're going to share about that this morning. And then we see Moses in his glory days where he's learned confidence and trust marked by following God and closely obeying Him and even being called a friend of God before his life is over in his final 40 years. And then there's 40 years smashed between that which there's a lot of growing up that Moses has to do which changed him to the man that you and I know most now.

So we're going to start reading Hebrews chapter 11 verse 23. It says, By faith Moses when he was born was hidden three months by his parents because they saw he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's command. By faith Moses when he became of age refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. Let's pray this morning.

Father we thank you for your word this morning. We thank you for the opportunity to be in your house Lord. And Father as we look at Moses this morning I saw something this week as I studied that most of us deal with probably on a daily basis Father.

And I also remember Lord that throughout your word of God it is said that it is told to us 365 times to fear not. And as a professor said in Bible college it's one for each day of the year. Because we deal with fear in a myriad of situations.

But yet you tell us that we do not have to be afraid. So Lord I pray as we speak this message this morning God that you would anoint my lips to say your words to speak the message you would have me speak. But Father you would anoint our ears to hear what you would want us to hear.

And to apply it to our hearts and lives and to make us more like your son Jesus. In his name we ask amen, amen, amen. Moses is quite an interesting character.

He's larger than life in both the Jewish nation's history and our Christian history. We have a lot that we can attribute to Moses through our faith today. But I find it interesting how the writer of Hebrews introduces this great character of Moses one who said that there would come another prophet like me that you should follow.

One who parted the Red Sea, who struck rocks and rivers flew and all of these great things that could be said about Moses. But yet the writer introduces Moses as a beautiful baby. Now I'm going to talk to you as a man because that's what I am.

I find this both un-extraordinary and interesting. I feel like I'm getting ready to get in trouble. That's okay.

I feel that when babies are born through the first couple of weeks of life they are tiny, malnourished, puny little versions of people. And maybe while beautiful in their own way they're not exactly beautiful to the eye. But having had five kids babies are, let me say this, your own babies are extremely beautiful.

Most people's babies are, wow, that's cute. And if you deny that fact you're a liar and I will pray for you. But I also find it interesting that it says that by faith, and this is what calls this into question for me because it says by faith they kept Moses alive.

And they hid him. You don't hide beautiful babies. I mean you try to show beautiful babies off.

There's another version that said that Moses was an unusual child and I was like now that's probably a better translation on how we want to introduce Moses. But it is interesting that it says by faith Moses, Moses had nothing to do with this when he was born, was hidden by his parents because Pharaoh had ordered all male children to be killed. And as I was writing this, my sermon doesn't really speak to this much, but I thought in my heart, and I struggled and my heart goes out to all the aborted babies that have been taken before they could impact our world.

And it's truly a heinous ploy of the enemy. This disease or plague or catastrophe called abortion. Because he seeks to destroy life before it even begins in the womb.

It's quite a disgusting, quite a disgusting thing in life. But, I pray for those people, I pray for the babies, and I pray that God would give us clear path forward, amen? Amen. But in talking about Moses this morning, their parents' faith and the unwillingness to fear Pharaoh caused them to keep this child alive.

And that's the beauty of life, amen? Because in all honesty, Moses was like a Jesus to his generation. He was to come and take these people who were enslaved to Egypt, to bring them to freedom, just like Jesus did for you and I. And I want to talk about Moses maybe this morning, maybe just a little bit differently than you've ever heard him spoken about. And I find that it makes him a little bit more human and easier to relate to.

And as I read the account of Moses in Exodus, his story starts in chapter 2 when he's born and then it of course goes through the rest of the book of Exodus as he leads the people out of Egypt. But the first 80 years of Moses' life is marked by fear. As you read scripture, it's interesting, Moses is always running from something.

He's always afraid of something. And he's never standing up to much of anything, which that might contradict everything you think about Moses because he goes into Egypt and he tells Pharaoh to let my people go. But it's really the tale of two stories for Moses.

His story starts in Exodus 2. He's placed in the ark, of course, at three months old because he can no longer hide Moses. And of course, as he is floated down the river, watched by his older sister, he happens to float probably strategically right into Pharaoh's daughter's bathing spot in the Nile. And of course, is plucked up.

The sister sees this and Pharaoh's daughter says to go and find someone to raise this child. And of course, she goes and gets Moses' mother. And one of the beautiful stories in the Bible, I think she is thus paid to nurse her child to the point where he's weaned.

I think that's just a beautiful way God works sometimes. A baby who should have been aborted by the government is thus raised by the government's kids and die. God works in mysterious ways.

And of course, I believe it's during this time that Moses' mother and father really pour into Moses what it is to be, I'm sorry, who he truly is and who his identity is. Because we're going to learn here eventually that even though he goes back into Egypt's Pharaoh's daughter's family, he was been educated probably in the highest esteems with other nobility of the land. He would have been raised to command men, to occupy government positions and appointments.

I mean, he would have been raised as a son of Pharaoh with all of the best accoutrements of life. He wouldn't have lacked anything to grow up. And of course, this is all assumed because Scripture doesn't give us this.

But it does give us a couple things starting in verse 11 of chapter 2. And this is what it says in Exodus chapter 2 verse 11. Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people. So he understood who his people were.

They were the Hebrews. And during this visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. And after looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.

A couple of things I pick out in this Scripture. Chapter 1, Moses knew he was a Hebrew. And I believe it's because of his mother.

And he went to visit his people to see how they were being treated. Second, I would have to assume he had some kind of authority amongst Egyptians because he's able to get this Egyptian taskmaster alone in a place where he can kill him where nobody could see. So he must have had some authority to remove him from the situation or his duty to bring him to a place where he can kill him.

Again, there's no verification of that, but you have to read into the story a little bit because he was looking for a place where no one could see him. But I think this also tells one more story. Moses grew up without ever belonging anywhere.

And I believe he had a very rough personal life because the Hebrews who were slaves looked at Moses as living a life of luxury in king's palaces while they threshed straw and made bricks under the whips of taskmasters. And I'm sure he was despised by his people for it. Because after finding a couple of them fighting a little bit later on, this is how they respond to Moses in chapter 2, verse 14.

He says, who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill us as you killed the Egyptian? So he was despised by his own people. They didn't like him. And of course, I believe the same came from the Egyptians.

They knew that he was not an Egyptian. They knew that Pharaoh's daughter had adopted him. And they probably despised him as well because he had some kind of authority over them, but he was a member of the slave race.

And why should you be able to tell me what to do as a Hebrew? Because of your mom and your dad. And so I believe he was despised also by the Egyptians, never having a place of his own, always wondering. And I believe that is what developed this fear in him that he couldn't trust anybody because everybody was out to get him.

And so this is who we see Moses as, as a 40-year-old, trying to garner likability with his people, but separated from the people he was supposed to belong to. And I believe in Egypt, Moses dealt with the fear that we all fight to some degree every day. Because in Exodus 2, it teaches us that Moses had a fear of men.

He didn't belong anywhere. He couldn't trust anybody. There was no place that he could rest his hat and just be Moses.

And I think a lot of us struggle with this. There's even a name for it. It's called Fopo.

Anybody ever heard of Fopo? You've probably heard of FOMO, the fear of missing out, but you know there's something called Fopo. Who knew? There's acronyms for everything now. Fopo is the fear of people's opinions.

Whoa! Boy, does that touch a culture nerve, huh? You can't have an opinion without making somebody mad at you. But there's a lot of people who struggle with the opinions of other people. And I believe we all struggle with this to a degree because we orchestrate our lives in a way to ensure that we leave the best impression in every situation we find ourselves in, right? That's the goal.

We want to be the best we can and we want to impress the best so that when we walk away, people think the best of us. And there's a lot of us like, pfft, I don't care, which is true to a degree. But there are instances and places in your life where you do care.

And I find it interesting. Most of us will do this on social media. We try to present this picture that is as perfect as possible so that when people see us, they're just like, oh, what a great life they have.

There's something in us when we boil it down that seeks the approval of other people. And I guess that's where the fear comes from. We want to be, we don't want to be the outcast and we don't want to be disregarded or rejected because of something that we wear, think, participate in, like that.

We want to be accepted. And again, like I said, not everybody struggles with this in a lot of ways. There are some ways where I don't struggle with this.

I really don't care. But there are ways where I do struggle with this. So we must ask the question in this, I'm sorry, we do have to ask this question, but I painted it this way.

When we get asked a question in the spur of the moment that may cast us, excuse me, I'll start over. Sometimes when we find ourselves in a place where we're asked a question in the spur of the moment that might cast us in a bad light, our knee-jerk reaction is to tell a white lie. We don't want to look bad.

We want to look right. We want to protect our image. This is an expression of the fear of man.

See, Moses experiences this with the Hebrew men who were fighting that we read the Scripture on. And I really believe it's safe to assume that the two men who were fighting is the same men that were being beaten by the Egyptian that Moses killed. Because I think Moses is trying to act or present himself in a way that will make himself likable to these two men or these Israeli men.

So he sees that these guys are being mistreated and so he deals with that problem thinking, Hey, if I deal with this, this is going to make them like me because I fixed their problem. But yet as we read the Scripture, he gets there and like, who made you a prince and judge over us? So even in doing this, he's still despised by his people and experiences rejection from them. So let's take that into today's terminology.

See, we fight this temptation in terms of our salvation as identity and Christians. And our identity as Christians, I'll get it out. See, it's really easy to shout, I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ here.

Amen? It's easy here because we're all of the like mind, we're all of the same opinion. It's nice. But there might be places in your life where, well, I don't want to say that very loud.

I don't want to appear like I'm some Christian or Jesus lover, Jesus freak and be called out for it. And we all suffer it. I mean, Peter, a disciple who lived with Jesus for three years, a little bitty girl asked him a question, threw his whole world into a tizzy, denied Jesus three times, a little bitty girl.

You're one of them Jesus people, aren't you? No. Mm-mm. Not me.

What are you talking about? No, I just go to church. I have friends there. Yeah.

I mean, I do give a little bit because, you know, you're supposed to be nice. But no, they're just people that I hang out with sometimes. John gives us the root of this problem that we all fight in our heart in John chapter 12.

And it says, for they love the praise of men more than the praise of God. They love the praise of men more than the praise of God. See, in the heat of the moment, it's easy to save face, to decide to gain the praise of men knowing, I can seek forgiveness in a little bit.

Jesus will forgive me. I know He will. I can save face here.

See, we learn to be ashamed of Jesus when it benefits us for worldly gain, for advancement in life, to be seen as good or likable. But here's the problem with that. Jesus says, if you're ashamed of me before men, I'm going to be ashamed of you before God and the angels.

Ouch, is right. So this morning, Moses dealt with the fear of men, and he dealt with rejection, and he didn't belong anywhere. So the first lesson we can learn from Moses is don't let the fear of men drive you to a place of losing your faith in Jesus and having Jesus be ashamed of you before God.

Because ultimately, that is the worst choice. So now Moses, he's in this position, he's confronting these two Israelites who are fighting, and they say, hey, what, are you going to kill us like you killed that guy? So now Moses has another struggle because he comes up to another fear. Because I would assume Pharaoh's been trying to get rid of him, and he says, man, if Pharaoh hears about this, I'm done for.

Do you really think if Moses was a favored son of Pharaoh, he could have killed someone and gotten away with it? I think he could have. But there's something in Moses that says, man, if he finds out, holy cow, I'm in trouble. Fear strikes again.

So what does Moses do? What he does best. He runs. He flees.

He heads to Midian. He gets married. He begins taking care of sheep.

What a good job. I think that's why I love the Bible, and I have sheep, because I can identify with so many people. I think that's why Moses was such a good leader of all these people, because he dealt with sheep in the wilderness.

And 40 years later, Moses meets a burning bush that's not being consumed, and of course has a conversation with God. And I believe it's during these 40 years that Moses is able to gain his identity, and he suffered affliction with the people of God in his own way, as the book of Hebrews says. He wasn't actually suffering slavery like the children of Israel were, but no longer was he in the palaces with servants and nice foods.

He finds himself on the backside of the wilderness, married to a wonderful wife, I'm sure, taking care of beautiful great sheep, I'm sure, and walking in the heat of the desert, living in tents. And in a way, it's his identifying with the children of Israel and their suffering, which Moses tells us, I'm sorry, which Hebrews tells us about Moses. So verse 24 of chapter 11 in Hebrews says, Now this is an interesting place for this scripture, because you would think that this would be after the 40 years, but it's really before the 40 years, when he goes back and leads the children out.

See, it is during the burning bush experience where God calls Moses to go back to Egypt and to lead the children to the promised land. And if you read this, Moses is going to give you five more fears that he has, and he deals with on a daily basis, to God himself, without his shoes on, standing on holy ground, speaking to a burning bush. He's like, God, I'm going to debate you on this.

He has some audacity, I tell him that much. And I can speak from experience, I'm not actually going to share all five of these, I'm just going to take a couple of them, but I can speak to experience on this first one that Moses offers to God in Exodus chapter 3.

Standing at the burning bush, and he's dealing with the fear of insecurity or self-doubt It says but Moses said to God who am I? That I should go to Pharaoh that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt now I'm gonna share a story with you guys because I For those of you who have been here for the whole process so we came of course to this church in 2020 and took over the pastorship 2023 and If those of you who have been here for all of that you're going to you're going to identify with this story But you have witnessed. I hope you have witnessed the growth from my very first sermon here Which I hope you don't remember it, but I do Because it was in my opinion as well as several other people who was very happy to share with me How very poor of a sermon it was See when pastor Jeff asked us to consider pastoring the church I have to admit I I felt like I was ready for it. I had served under my dad who had pastored the church I served under my father-in-law for the last 15 years.

I had watched Understood lived with the ministry's life and I equate it to this. I understood pastoring like someone who has read the instructions without ever doing anything Like yeah, that's easy. I can do that So I was extremely confident in my ability to pastor.

I was like no problem This is gonna be okay Yeah, and then pastor Jeff began putting responsibility on my shoulders and it not going like I thought it should go not being as easy as I thought it should be and That's when the South the self-doubt Burden began to lay heavy upon my shoulders And I believe self-doubt is a fear that is plaguing our generation our Phones and our Our phones and and the isolated social media life that we live Which I find as an oxymoron It shows us perfection without actually understanding the context of time and energy and cost For seeing what Social media tells us is the reality, you know We'll watch something and this guy will throw this thing and

it'll land in the cup and it's like seeing it for the first time But what you don't realize is they've been filming that for two weeks Throwing it a thousand Two thousand times to try to get that one shot But we see it and like wow, he did that in his first try Should be easy, right? Kind of like how I was looking at pastoring I was like man, I've watched this forever. This should be easy. Not a problem See self-doubt is something when we see something and we try to do it, but we don't do it as good as the other person or we don't succeed on our first five tries and we see them do it the first time and Then we begin to turn inward and begin to attack ourselves.

Well, why are you so imperfect? Why are you so? Why can't you do what everybody else seems to be doing easily what comes natural to them and we we turn on? ourselves and we begin to blast our heart and our mind and our body and our spirit with all kinds of Negative words if you were only better if you only did this if you would only do that And unfortunately, we are our own worst enemies when it comes to these things we had our men's breakfast yesterday and One of the men shared something that I find interesting that I wanted to bring to us this morning is he was talking to the guys in there and he said that I feel like one of the things that we as men don't do Well is give ourselves grace and I took that and I was like, that's something we don't do well as people we're quick to To destroy ourselves But yet when we see someone else fails like hey, that's alright buddy get up you'll be alright You could you'll do better the next time we encourage other people, but we rarely give ourselves that encouragement We just begin to tear ourselves down speak negativity over our lives and invite self-doubt Into our hearts And I love How God deals with Moses saying who am I that I should go and do this It's a very interesting way to deal with it. It's the very next passage in Exodus chapter 3 verse 12 This is what God tells Moses. I will certainly be with you.

That's a great first promise. You're not going alone I'm gonna be with you, but this is where it gets interesting and This will be your sign that you're supposed to do this I'm calling you to go free these people and I'm gonna give you a sign that you're supposed to do it you're going to go and You're gonna do it and then you're gonna bring them back to this mountain And you'll worship me That's your sign Isn't that interesting And When you have brought the people out of Egypt you shall serve God on this mountain That's the sign that you were supposed to do what I've called you to do How often in life when we feel like God is leading us to do something that we ask God for a sign Gideon's fleece we lay out and say Lord if this is your will Let it be wet and everything dry and Then when God does that and we're like, okay, that was probably easy Lord If this fleece is folded like an octagon in the morning, I'll know And it happens like now God if this fleece is floating I'll know Okay Okay Done with Gideon. Let's get more real, right? God, I know you're I feel like you're calling me to give this.

So if I get \$10,000 back on my tax return. Oh No This is this is what I'm supposed to do Hmm God if the sky is green We Begin to offer all kinds of excuses and I find in my life The more I don't want to do a task the more absurd The sign that I request to know that I should do this and I think we're all that way See God will often call us to do something in our life Tell us to be obedient to what he's asking of us And then when you accomplish it, you'll know that you were supposed to do it Three years ago. I started this journey thinking.

Oh I can do this Quickly realizing holy cow. I can't do this But I can say this three years later without a shadow of a doubt I Know that this is where God has called me. I know this is what he's asked of me And I also understand I could never do it under my own strength But part of following God is being obedient to him Understanding that his first promise is I will go with you as you go which and do what you're supposed to do I won't let you I won't leave you alone.

I won't send you out by yourself. I will walk with you as You go through the process to be obedient Paul Tells us in Philippians chapter 4 that I can do all things through Christ The beautiful thing is that it's not through me I can't pastor this church through the power of Will Parsons I could sure try but it'll fail real fast and often when God calls us to do something we Suffer or struggle with fear because it's not within our own power to do So God tells Moses you were to go to Israel and Release them and Moses gives offers another fear. Well, what if they reject me which they had already rejected him? So the fear of rejection is still there He also Lets fear drive him to offer the excuse of being too busy How many of you ever told God I'm too busy God I've got you've given me too much already.

I don't have time for this. I can't go do this next thing It's too much for me I can't handle the responsibility James teaches us that those who know to do good and does not do it to that one. It's a sin So we can know what God is calling us to do but say you know what God I've got excuses on top of excuses on why I shouldn't do that and To you that is a sin And as I begin to wrap this up I want to touch on one more fear this morning and that's the fear of not being qualified See God tells Moses.

Well, I'm slow a speech. I'm not qualified. I can't do this As I read this passage in in Exodus my mind went to a very small child who's asked to pick up his Legos And there's only about seven on the floor and he picks one up and then he's like, huh, I can't do this This is too much it's just too much I Know you have that picture in your mind too.

I just see Moses throwing this temper tantrum. Oh, I can't do this God It's like it's seven Lego blocks man. You'll be okay It's Easy to say that's Moses, but you know what? It's all of us to God says go tell that person.

I love them. You're like, oh god Can't today I've got my kids and I got grocery shopping and I got I'm busy I Got often calls us to do something that we have no way of accomplishing on our own So I want to take just a moment and put ourselves in Moses's shoes just for a minute Because we can see it and like man, it's really not that big a deal what's Moses worried about And I want to try to paint this picture for us to mentally prepare what God was asking Moses to do He was asking Moses to take several million people Enslaved to the most powerful and richest nation in the world and to lead them to freedom into the promised land That's simple right and not too bad it's a three-day March So, let me break it down a little bit more You have one man Leading people that has already rejected him From a nation. He has already fled for his life from But nothing but a stick in his hand and There is it one person in this room That would say you know what God? Yeah, heck.

Yeah, I'm ready when we leaving Today let's do it. I mean, I'm ready God easy. We can do this Not one person here would say that He just like Moses were very quick to offer God Every valid and invalid reason we can't respond in faith Because of the fear we fight within our hearts To accomplish something God asked us to do that.

We have no way of doing on our own That alone garners fear Because we have to put trust in someone else. It's not just you and I And we're going to get back to Moses next week, but I Want to spend just a little bit of time talking about faith and fear Because they're opposing forces See fear Believes in failure the worst possible outcome is what's gonna happen. That's fear But faith trust God to lead us where we don't have the ability to go and to have success So Hebrews chapter 11 verse 27 says by faith he forsake Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king This is a different stroke for Moses for the first time.

He has something that he's never had in his life he's not fearing the wrath of the king and he's willing to go and to be the Moses that you and I know and Think of today It says not fearing the wrath of the king for he endured as seeing him who is invisible Moses had lived for 80 years he finds God and He reluctantly puts his faith in him And he starts walking back to Egypt To a people that's rejected him To a nation that is trying to kill him And he ends up giving a powerful display of God's power and fulfilling the call that God has put on his life So you will never accomplish anything for God operating from a place of fear Fear and faith are like oil and water. They don't mix One will rule the other Faith allowed Moses to endure every hardship and Return eventually to the mountain that God told him, but how did he do that? How did he overcome? The fear that was in his heart and I think that's a good lesson for us because we all fight the fear sometimes daily Romans chapter 8 says this Paul writing to the Romans in chapter 8 verse 15 It says for I did not give you a spirit of bondage again to fear But you received the spirit of adoption by whom we cry out Abba Father So the one way that we come against this fear that wants to paralyze us and and cause us to just freeze and not be able to function is We have to say you know what God you didn't give me a spirit of fear You've given me a spirit of faith. And so we approach the Heavenly Father and say God I know that you're asking this of me I'm scared to death That's okay to say to God But you have to continue and say you know what God I'm not gonna let my fear make my choice You didn't give me a spirit of fear you've called me to something that I don't think I can do So if I'm gonna accomplish it It ain't because of me So I'm coming to you father I need your help I Can't do this on my own.

That's how we begin to overcome the fear that wants to grip our heart and I took this lesson from someone that we all love and know very dear His name is Jesus Christ Mark chapter 14 verse 36. Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane. He's praying Sweat drops of blood because of the The stress in the situation the task that God has called him to accomplish.

It's a very difficult one And this is what Jesus prays Abba father same passage that's in Romans All things are possible from you Take this cup from me I'm not gonna say Jesus was afraid but I will say this Jesus understood the task that was there He also understood that he couldn't do it on his own strength. He needed God's help and That's modeling for us what we are to do when we come up to situations that we Don't feel we can handle on our own strength Jesus comes to his father and says God. I know you can do all things Take this cup from me But he doesn't stop there Nevertheless and This is how we overcome fear nevertheless God Not what I want because if I have what I want He doing that if Moses would have had his choice he would not have gone back to Egypt if Moses could have made his case and said you know what God I know that you can do this.

I choose to opt out Thanks find someone else He could But he would not have been obedient to God's calling Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane Praise this prayer Nevertheless Not what I want But what you want we sang a song today Says bless God I Wanted to read a couple lyrics if I can find them Now is that the right one no, it's not sorry, it's this one It's in the valley it says when the path that I feared Is the way that he has set sometimes God sets a path in front of us We're afraid of And I long to give in and retreat Anybody ever faced something in life you're like man, I don't want to do this I'd rather retreat Still To Jesus I hold as I face every step For the Lord he will give me his peace it goes on to say Bless the Lord because he will give me his peace See his promise to Moses was I understand this is a fearful task But I will go with you I Will face This nation. I will cause you to face your fears and I will Allow you by faith to triumph over everything Stand with me this morning Moses battled fear just like you and I do And we talked about a few examples this morning the fear of people The fear of that comes from self-doubt the fear of being unqualified For 80 years fear defined Moses his life. He ran from everything.

He was afraid of everything. He didn't face anything But then he encounters God God says I have a task for you to do Moses is like heck no and Offers five fears says God. I can't because of this this this and this and this and this and this God says yeah, I hear your fears, but I'm gonna go with you Moses returns to Egypt in obedience a different man than when he left Egypt It Says when he came back, he no longer feared Pharaoh But he endured a seeing Him who is invisible So this is what I took from that Moses is no longer regarding fear Pharaoh Moses is no longer looking at himself Those things garnered fear in Moses his life for the first time Moses has something else to gaze upon He stood in front of a burning bush and he heard God say Moses you're gonna go and do this His eyes are no longer fixed on that which scares him his eyes are fixed on that which leads him that's Jesus Christ He set his eyes upon the invisible God Fear is always gonna tell you that you can't That's its motto Faith Always says God can because it's not your power And After all this Moses returned to the mountain and worshipped The promise was fulfilled in his life God was with Moses through all of that God is with you In the midst of your fear Guess what? Same God It's the same God who went with Moses and Moses saw the display of power that God put on through his obedient life Will you go and lead a million people out of Egypt by defying a government I Don't know But I do understand this I feel like We can understand the weight of Moses because often in our lives It feels like God is calling us to lead a million people out of the richest nation with only a stick Even though sometimes it's go tell your boss that I love them It feels impossible It's the same stress You and I will always fight fear The question is not whether or not we feel afraid The question is where you walk by faith despite your fear Moses being afraid began the journey back to Egypt one step at a time And he landed where God wanted him to and he led a people out of bondage.

I Don't know who God's calling you to But I know that there are people in your life that are bondage in bondage to sin There are people in your life that are in bondage to some kind of addiction and I'm not saying that you're gonna go out and be everything and all that they need but God is gonna put you in a place to present him to lead them to freedom That's God's business always has been He uses you and I to accomplish that in the world we live in Will you let fear Rule your life Or will you be like Moses and walk in faith despite your fear? Father I thank you Lord for the word this morning Fear is a a daily fight that we all have on some front But yet father you tell us many times in your word that you do not give the spirit of fear But you give the you give a sound mind you give us faith in the midst of Impossible situations And you do that standing right next to us I Love that you never leave nor forsake us and That you do not send us where you not where you have not already been and you do not give us tasks and callings and Lead us to something that you have not prepared the way for Giving us the strength to do Because you work through us You don't leave us to our own You don't leave us on our own power To our own devices, but yet you go before you make the path straight And You help us to deal with the fear that comes upon us and the only way we can do that is by putting faith in your ability To be true to your word so Lord as we go out and face those things which bring fear to our life Help us to overcome that by crying out to Abba father Not my will father, but yours be done Not my will father But yours be done despite the fear despite the rejection we might face despite all the outcomes May our obedience be in you and may our faith Give us success in the day. We thank you for it in Jesus name Amen Amen Amen Lord bless you guys kept you a little bit long today, but there's no apology