



GOING DEEPER
March 14 & 15, 2020

Title: Discovering the Genius of Jesus Series – Week 7 “Fear”

Teacher: Pastor Wayne

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus, after teaching the crowds, sends his disciples to the other side of the lake. Somewhere between 3-6am, he meets them in the middle of the lake, to show them who He truly is, in the midst of their fears.

Discussion Questions:

As we read the story of Jesus walking on water, the trial of the disciples, the boldness of Peter and the response to Jesus’ presence in the boat, we are left to reflect on our own journey with Jesus.

(1) RESOLVE TO FOLLOW JESUS

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side. (verse 22)

When have you felt that you were being obedient to Jesus’ direction?

In following Jesus’ direction, when have you felt fear? Fear of the unexpected? Fear of the unknown? Fear of the unpredictable? Is there a consistent source of fear in your life?

Similarly, when have you felt a resolve in following Jesus? What practices build, maintain or encourage your confidence/resolve?

(2) REMEMBER TO LOOK FOR THE LIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS

Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid (verse 27)

When fears arise, when you notice the winds are against you, or the waves are crashing, or life’s circumstances are building up around you, what are ways you become aware of the living presence of Jesus?

What has been a defining moment where you have seen Jesus clearly in the midst of trials?

When has your confidence led you to say “Tell me to come to you on the water” (Peter’s words, v. 28)

When have you, like the other disciples, chosen to remain in the boat? What has kept you there?

(3) RESET YOUR HEART WITH WORSHIP

Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (verse 33)

What moments in your life have you experienced when you were moved to worship without someone telling you to?

All storms in this life will eventually pass, including COVID-19. So we declare:

**The King of Kings
The Lord of Lords
The Prince of Peace
The Wonderful Counsellor
The Beautiful Saviour**

**The Messiah
The Living Word
The Light of the World
The Great Physician
The Good Shepherd**

Practice:

1. When dealing with fear and anxiety, ground yourself in the concrete reality around you. What people do you need to be speaking into your life? What practices ground you? (e.g. prayer, silence & stillness, fellowship, etc.)
2. Build a list of scripture verses that can be used to:
 - a. build your resolve to follow Jesus
 - b. help yourself and others see Jesus' presence in fearful moments
 - c. worship God

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- For leaders in our governments, communities, organizations and churches as they seek wisdom and discernment with COVID-19
- For those who are ill and those who are providing medical care for them
- For the Church to be a light in the darkness of fear, misinformation and isolation
- For neighbours to be a hopeful & peaceful presence as we love God and love our neighbours
- For the watch parties that will happen, taking the place of our large weekend gatherings, that they would be an encouragement to many and a sign of hope to neighbourhoods throughout the Okanagan region