

**Follow 03: "The Payoff"**  
**Matthew 10:16-31**

April 7, 2024

**Main Idea:** Following Jesus produces faith in God that is so strong and secure that even in bad circumstances, we are not afraid.

**Following Jesus – the Payoff**

Today from Matthew chapter 10 we're going to reveal the payoff. What did Jesus promise His followers? If you are willing to follow Jesus, what can you expect to receive in return? First, what it's not. **The Payoff is NOT...**

**...becoming a better person.** But you will. Remember, Jesus said join us and you will change, but He never said the payoff is that you will be a better person.

**...the promise of heaven.** This is interesting! Jesus had very little to say about going to heaven. He didn't say that if you follow Me you will go to heaven.

**...a pain-free and problem-free life.** For the disciples, following Jesus caused problems. There are very few guaranteed outcomes when following Jesus.

**No Fear**

Jesus has gathered the disciples. He is going to send them out to tell His story. He is preparing them. He tells them that things are going to be difficult. The promise is NOT "Don't be afraid because I won't let bad things happen." The promise is "Don't be afraid WHEN bad things happen." Following Jesus will make you so sure of God's love that even when bad things happen, you will not fear.

**Following Jesus produces faith that overwhelms fear.**

Imagine the implications! Jesus never promised life without difficulty. He never promised a pain-free and problem-free existence. Jesus said do not fear the people, circumstances, or events that can harm the body. Fear the One who controls the destiny of the soul. God is with you. Over and over again Jesus promised the disciples a life without fear. God is with us! I do not fear because God is with me. He controls my destiny.

**Life Without Fear**

Imagine a life without fear! Imagine handling the difficulty with confidence. Imagine a diagnosis holding no power over you. An ex-husband having no power over your happiness. Just imagine! This is where Jesus wants to take you.

**Romans 8:28,** "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

**Family Night Big idea – Read Matthew 10:16-31**

The Bible says with God all things are possible and if He is for us, who can be against us. Teach your children that when we follow Jesus, God gives us a faith that overwhelms fear.

**Elementary School** – Ask, "What did Jesus say was going to happen to the disciples when they told his story? What did Jesus say about the hairs on your head? Why should we follow Jesus?"

**Middle/ High School** – Ask, "When do you feel afraid? Why should we only fear God (v.28)? How can strong faith overcome fear? How does knowing that God loves you and is with you take away your fear?"

**Prayer** "Father, we want to follow Jesus. Grow in us a strong faith that overcomes fear. Amen."

**Velocity (Middle and High School Students)**

**Velocity:** At the church this Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Gravity:** Not today. Enjoy the Easter Service.

**Today's Songs**

*Great Things*.....Phil Wickham

*Build My Life*.....Pat Barrett

*This is My Song*.....North Point Worship

**GCC 101 Membership Class**

If you would like to join GCC or just want more information about our church, you can attend this class on April 28<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Community Room after the 11:00 service. A light lunch will be served. Childcare is provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Lobby.

**Mother's Day High Tea**

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm. There will be performances, a speaker, and refreshments. Cost is \$20 per family. Please sign up in the Lobby by April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Velocity Summer Camp**

Sign up now for Summer Camp Rafting, June 3-7. A \$100 deposit is due by May 12<sup>th</sup> to secure your spot. Register now by going to [gracestatesboro.com](http://gracestatesboro.com).

**Surfs Up**

Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30. Fun and games in KidsJAM. Sign up today!

**Graduate Recognition**

Contact Tyler by next Sunday if you are a graduate this year.