

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Pastor James Dale

The Journey | Don't Be Afraid | Luke 21:9-11

*And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified,
for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once." Luke 21:9*

Three Facts About Fear

#1 Fear is CONTAGIOUS

#2 Fear reveals FALSE HOPE

#3 Fear is a LIAR

The Fight Against Fear

#1 God is with You

Joshua 1:9

#2 Choose a Better Peace

John 14:27

#3 Preach Truth to Your Soul

Psalm 118: 6

Small Group Questions

The Journey | Don't Be Afraid | Luke 21:9-11

The Big Idea

Jesus promises wars, disasters, and dangers. In the midst of these scary realities, he has commanded us, "Do not be afraid." Fear is very real and present. The world around us is seemingly out of control. Each person has their own internal battles. The battle against anxiety is fought with faith and trust that the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Getting Started

- 1) Do you have any silly or ridiculous fears? Are you more afraid of spiders, clowns, or taxes?
- 2) Do you ever have those fears that pop into your head in the middle of the night? Ones that your brain wants to fix, but cannot be solved at 2am? Share some of those fears together. Do you see any common themes?

Digging Deeper (Read Numbers 13:17- Number 14:4)

- 3) In case someone in your small group is not familiar with the story of the people of Israel, have a person give the two-minute recap.
- 4) Discuss the fears and dangers reported by the spies.
 - a) What was real? What might have been "rumors"?
 - b) God has been visible in the lives of the people (miracles, red sea, the mountain). Why do you think fear spreads so quickly?
 - c) How can we connect this to our modern world and the contagious nature of fear?
 - d) Two spies push back and challenge the people to trust God. What responsibility do we have, as followers of Jesus, to push back against fear in our culture and world?
- 5) God promised the people of Israel victory and did not remove the obstacles. Jesus has promised his followers peace and then tells them wars and disasters will come (Luke 21:9-11).
 - a) Why do you think God did not destroy the armies before the Israelites arrived in the Promised Land?
 - b) In our lives, why does God allow the obstacles and dangers to be in our lives?

6) The command “do not be afraid” is most often connected to the promise of God being with us. (Read Psalm 34:4, Psalm 23:4, Psalm 27:1) How can we fight fear with faith and truth?

Making It Real

7) Where has fear grabbed onto your heart and told you lies about God? Where do you need God’s truth in your life today? Spend time sharing, praying, and encouraging one another.

8) Our encouragement this week was to get in the fight against fear by memorizing God’s word. (Re-read Joshua 1:9, John 14:27, Psalm 118:6). Which one are you planning to work on learning this week? Why did you choose that verse? (Maybe make time next week, in small group, to share the verse from memory?)