

# Live like you're not afraid to fail — live like you are fearless!

## Lesson V: Live like. . . .

### ► intro:

- **Matt. 14:22-33** Jesus / Peter walk on water

- **Jesus had** fed 5,000 men + women and children (**15-20k +/-**)

- He **perceived** that the people intended to **make Him their king**, so he **sent** the people away and told the apostles to escape in a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum (Jn. 6:15-17)

- Jesus went on the **mountain to pray, alone**

- **4<sup>th</sup> watch** of the night (3-6 a.m.), **Jesus was walking on the water** - Sea of Galilee

- **apostles were 3-4 miles** from shore, **struggling** to row the boat as waves beat upon the boat and the wind was contrary

- **Jesus came close** to the apostles, they were **terrified** and thought He was a **ghost**, they **cried out** in fear

- **Jesus identified himself** and told them **not to be afraid**

- **command - ditto today**

- **Peter tested the Lord** — **if it is you** command me to come out of the boat to you (walk on the water)

- **Peter got out of the boat** and **started walking on the water**

- **seeing the wind** (causes waves), **frightened**, began to **sink**, **cried out for Jesus to save him**

- **Jesus took Peter by the hand**, said, **“You of little faith, why did you doubt?”**

- **doubt / fear / faith vanishes / not obey (sink)**

- **title:** Live like you're not afraid to fail — live like you are fearless!

- **note:** not talking about the fear that keeps us from walking in front of a car, touching a hot stove, endangering ourselves, etc.

- **Fear God, not man** — as long as we fear (obey) God, there is no need to fear failure - success is guaranteed
  - Jesus' command
    - **Matt. 10:26-31** not fear one who can kill the body, but one who can kill both body and soul in hell
  - **illus.: Peter's denial of Christ** — brave at first, then fear got the best of him - failed then, but not in life
    - followed Jesus from Gethsemane where he had cut off Malchus' ear and Jesus had been arrested, to high priest's house where he was tried
    - apostle John was also there and made arrangements for Peter to come in
    - inside, Peter was accused of being Jesus' disciple 3 times
      - **Matt. 26:69-74** Peter's denials
      - **Matt. 26:75** Peter's reaction, gave into fear (Lk., Lord turned and looked at Peter)
    - Peter restored by the Lord — asked 3 times if he loved Him
      - Peter was a great leader in the church — took gospel to Jews & Gentiles
      - martyred by crucifixion, upside down
    - **application:** sometimes we are going to fail - but we must be willing to take a chance, and do our best to obey God - live *like* you're not afraid to fail, although you know you will fail upon occasion
- - **Fear God: reverence and obedience**
  - God's mercy is upon those who fear Him
    - **Lk. 1:46-50** Mary's praise after learning that you was pregnant
  - **illus.: Christians in Jerusalem - the Christians who feared God succeeded in life, others failed (A & S)**
    - Ananias and Sapphira did not fear God - failed
      - sold some land, brought some of the money to the apostles for the poor
      - lied, telling others that it was all the money they got from the sell
        - if they had told the truth, nothing bad would have happened - been commended
      - struck dead, lied to God - put the Spirit of the Lord to the test by lying to the apostles
    - **Acts 5:11** Christians in Jerusalem feared God after A & S died
      - **application: we must have the fear of God that drives us to be successful in life**
        - **illus.:** when I studied md&r a few years ago when the debate heated up over baptism for the remission of divorce - committed to learn and teach the truth, even if lost my financial support to preach, for life
- - **Most important thing: fear God / obey God / judgment**
  - **Ec. 12:13-14** fear God and keep His commandments, applies to every person, judgment
  - **2 Cor. 5:10-11a** judgment seat of Christ, fear
- - **Christian's fear is reverence and respect, not horror — love casts out fear**
  - **1 Jn. 4:17-18** loved perfected, confidence day of judgment, love casts out fear
    - **illus.:** two people, day of judgment, one fears and one loves

- - **A few more Scriptures relating to fear and failure - quick overview**
  - **Lk. 12:27** not to fear, be afraid we won't have the necessities of life
  - **Jn. 3:20** not fear, be afraid of religious scrutiny - personal and as a church - light always wins out
  - **1 Pet. 3:14; Rev. 2:10** not fear those who would try to intimidate us religiously - trying to pressure us into sinning - suffer for righteousness sake
  - **Rom. 13:3,7** not fear civil authorities - because living in obedience to their ordinances
- - **Phil. 1:14** speaking the word of God without fear
- **Phil. 2:12** work out own salvation with fear and trembling
- **fear that we may turn from God and back to sin**
  - **Heb. 4:1** fear, rest, come short of it.”
- **God's word will not fail**
  - **Lu 16:17** easier for heaven and earth to pass away than one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail
  - **Is. 55:11** word, not return to Me empty (void), without accomplishing and succeeding
- - **the ministry of the Spirit will not fail - God's covenant with us, walking by the Spirit**
  - **2 Cor. 3:7-8** ministry of death vs. ministry of the Spirit fail — will not fail
  - **application: fear and obey God, not fail — secret to success**
- - **Who will fail? — the wicked**
  - **Job 11:20** the eyes of the wicked will fail, no escape, their hope is to breathe their last
  - **application: fear and obey God, not fail — secret to success**

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➤ **it takes courage:**

- **courage:** mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty (Webster)
  - **being afraid, but doing the right thing anyway**
  - **illus.: Abraham Lincoln** - failed many times — courage to continue trying even after failure
  - **illus.: Thomas Edison** - taught others not to fear failure — courage to continue trying even after failure

➤ - **courage is required for us to obey God rather than man — confidence in our success - live as if we're not afraid to fail**

- **illus.: Joshua**

- **Joshua 1:6-8** God commanded, be strong and courageous — preparing to lead Israel into the Promise Land

- **what would it be like to be in his shoes** — afraid, anticipation, see Lord's army, war

➤ - **illus.: David and Goliath (1 Sam. 17)**

- **1 Sam. 17:45-47** David's words to Goliath before fighting

- **Israel was afraid - David was courageous**

- **Israel had forgotten that the battle belonged to the Lord - David had not**

- **today: to be courageous, we must remember that the battle belongs to the Lord — victory is certain**

➤ - **illus.: Jesus — courage to overcome feelings (fear, afraid) and do God's will**

- **Heb. 5:7-8** Jesus' distress: crying, tears, learned obedience, suffered

- **Matt. 26:39** (Jesus' courageous attitude) "yet not as I will, but as You will."

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**Conclusion / inv.:**

- **don't be afraid to fail — obey God, success is guaranteed**

- reverence God and keep His commandments

- love God, fear cast out, confidence in the day of judgment

- **inv.**

- **walk in the footsteps of Jesus: have courage, obey God and do His will, even when you don't want to**

Audio sermon notes: this is an abbreviated outline closely resembling the one I used to present this lesson.

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 4/23/2006, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.