

## Fear Not!

I recently remembered a great story that I heard many, many years ago that reminded me of the struggles most people are facing and how your perspective means everything. The story is about a man who lived in a city where he took care of his family and raised his son by pushing an apple cart. He was one of the friendliest people that those going to work would see each day. He worked very hard, got up at the crack of dawn and always greeted people with a smile. Sometimes a stranger wouldn't have the money on him or someone just couldn't afford it and he would give them the piece of fruit. He always seemed to have a good business and made enough for the day and also to save.

Over time the man's son grew up so he sent him off to one of the best colleges in New York City. While his son was off learning about economics and finance, dad kept doing what he was doing. One day his son came home from college for the summer and saw his dad's prices on food and worse yet giving some away. His son "enlightened" him about the struggling economy and the major need to make bigger profits and conserve – so his dad listened. His prices went up, his margins went up, his giving went down – and so did his income. Soon after, dad went out of business and had to hunt for a job to support his son in school and struggling family. He got away from caring for others and trusting in God because of his new found fear.

**“The greatest maturity is to stay calm and trust while true sin is to worry and doubt”**

How often do we listen the world instead of God? The world, and its prince, is so convincing! When we are in “our own little world with God” just loving Him and others – things aren't bad because we are walking in the light. However, the voice of the world and its worries rings loud in our ears and when we turn our attention to it, that still, small voice gets even smaller.

Do you sometimes feel like you are in a boat that's being tossed around by the wind and the waves, feeling that you may capsize? Jesus' disciples did in Mark 4! They were focused on the world and the real storm that threatened to kill them. Makes sense they would be afraid – right? They woke Jesus (who was sleeping through all this) probably thinking He could come up with an idea on how to steer the boat or something. What does He do – he quiets the storm THEN He rebukes His disciples saying “Why did you fear, do you still have no faith?” Jesus says the same to you today. He is not worried, why are you? Trust Him by not worrying – instead love others (by giving away your fruit – of the spirit) and following God.

**Here are three simple questions for to answer and keep in front of you this week:**

- 1) Would Jesus say to you today “what great faith you have” or “do you still have no faith”?
- 2) Do you believe God can handle anything that is going on in your life?
- 3) Are you pleasing God by trusting or sinning by worrying?

**Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, even your disciples asked 'who is this man that even the wind and the waves obey Him.' Lord, help me not to doubt you in ANY area of my life. Help me not to look with my eyes, but with my spirit about the deep truths of you. I believe in your victory and I know you have everything in the palm of your hand – today and every day – I release all to you. Amen."

**Scripture:** Mark 4:40

God Bless, Pastor and Coach Brian Williams © Brian Williams, 2008

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