

Fear Presumption and Faith

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Text: Exodus 14:13, Numbers 14:40 - 41 and Luke 1:38

Purpose: *I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to build FAITH and not to yield to fear and presumption.*

Introduction:

We are in a time, and a reality, that has the potential for severe consequences for many if we do not walk in wisdom. A rapid spread of Covid 19 would overstress our medical facilities, equipment and personnel. It is prudent and incumbent on us all to follow medical counsel to protect ourselves and one another.

That is why we have suspended gathering together, until further notice, and are developing alternate ways to encourage, bless and care for one another.

These are very unique days for all of us. One of my jobs has allowed me to observe people walking out our current situation in different ways:

- most with legitimate concern
- some with high levels of fear
- some with anger
- some are nonchalant bordering on being reckless
- some with faith and care

Many portions of Scripture have come to mind the last few days. Permit me to share three as we prepare for this morning's devotional.

> Romans 13:1, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

> Esther 4:14, "For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

1 Peter 5:7, "casting all your anxieties (cares) on him, because he cares for you."

Fear:

How will I respond to this current situation...

Exodus 14:13, "*And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand, and see the salvation (deliverance, victory) of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again."*

1.1) 2 Timothy 1:7, "*for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*

How quickly Israel has forgotten the miracles God did in Egypt, the Red Sea, manna, water from a Rock...

Fear diminishes and faith increases when we remember God's faithfulness to us in the past.

1.2) Proverbs 1:7, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

Jesus said in Matthew 10:28, "*and do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."*

Fear of the natural can lead to panic; fear of the Lord leads to trust in His ability.

1.3) Fear (respect or caution) are to serve us!

Fear, respect, caution are part of our natural protection: Heights, snakes, wild creatures

When this protective mechanism goes to the extreme it is a phobia!

Presumption:

How will I respond to this current situation...

Exodus 14:40 - 41, "*And they rose early in the morning and went up to the heights of the hill country, saying, "Here we are. We will go up to the place that the LORD has promised, for we have sinned." But Moses said, "Why now are you transgressing the command of the LORD, when that will not succeed?"*

2.1) Matthew 4:6, "*and (the devil) said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."*

Please take special note of the response of our Lord in verse 7, "*Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."*

A few days ago scenes from Florida - crowded beaches... 'if we get it we get it! Now, Saturday, a number of those beaches have been closed.

Faith:

How will I respond to this current situation...

3.1) Luke 1:38, "And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

> Be in the Word of God 2 Tim. 2:15

> Be in prayer Phil. 4:4 - 6

> Give thanks 1 Thessalonians. 5:16 - 18

> Express joy Phil. 4:4 - 5

> Obey the protective counsel Romans 13:1

> Love our neighbour as ourself Matthew 22:39

> Be faithful 1 Corinthians 4:2

Many in our fellowship are part of essential services which requires them to in areas of possible exposure...work wisely and we pledge to lift you in prayer!

Conclusion:

I Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape"